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INSIDE:
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Co-ops help co-ops
Carolina Country gardens

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A display of gazanias. A member of the daisy family, they are popular summer bedding plants. Learn how to grow them from seed on page 22 in our annual Garden Guide. (Photography by L.A. Jackson)



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Carolina country

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Your cooperative sends you Carolina Country as a convenient, economical way to share with its members information about services, director elections, meetings and management decisions. The magazine also carries legal notices that otherwise would be published in other media at greater cost.

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Another bright idea for energy savings and job growth in North Carolina



By Greg Andeck

Rapid declines in the price of light emitting diodes (LED) technology suggest that the next generation of energy efficient lighting—LED bulbs—is on the verge of widespread adoption. LED bulbs will eventually make traditional incandescent bulbs and their high energy requirement a thing of the past.

Price goes down, energy savings go up

In North Carolina, for example, one of the world's largest LED bulb manufacturers, Cree, recently announced a new bulb that is up to 82 percent more efficient than an incandescent bulb. The bulb sells for about \$8 at Home Depot, a price that means the bulb will pay for itself in energy savings in about a year.

That's a smart energy choice in the home—and a bargain. In 2013, the same wattage LED bulb was about \$13, illustrating the dramatic cost reductions that are occurring throughout the industry.

Companies adopt efficient lighting

Some of the largest companies in the world are beginning to make LEDs the default lighting choice in their buildings. Food Lion and Walmart, for example, have introduced LED lights into their in-store refrigerators in North Carolina. LEDs emit very little heat, reducing electric bills in the refrigerated section.

UNC system plans lighting upgrades


In 2013, the University of North Carolina system earned recognition for its aggressive plan to make major investments in LED lighting upgrades across 13 campuses and four other state facilities. These investments are projected to save North Carolina taxpayers about \$25 million over seven years.

U.S. Army is on board

In the eastern part of North Carolina, one of the largest Army bases in the world—Fort Bragg—is installing LED bulbs in aircraft hangars. The energy savings could go toward providing soldiers with additional equipment and training.

Electric cooperatives outdoor lighting program

North Carolina's member-owned electric cooperatives have pioneered the use of LED technology in outdoor security lighting. Co-ops are using LEDs to replace mercury vapor and HID ballast-driven lamps that members use for yard lights and outdoor security lighting. And, the LED lighting is made by a North Carolina-based manufacturer. The co-ops like the advantages of LED outdoor lighting: it costs less, requires less maintenance, and appeals to members who appreciate how it preserves the night's dark sky. The electric cooperatives also are looking at LEDs for such uses as flood lights, roadway lights and decorative street versions.

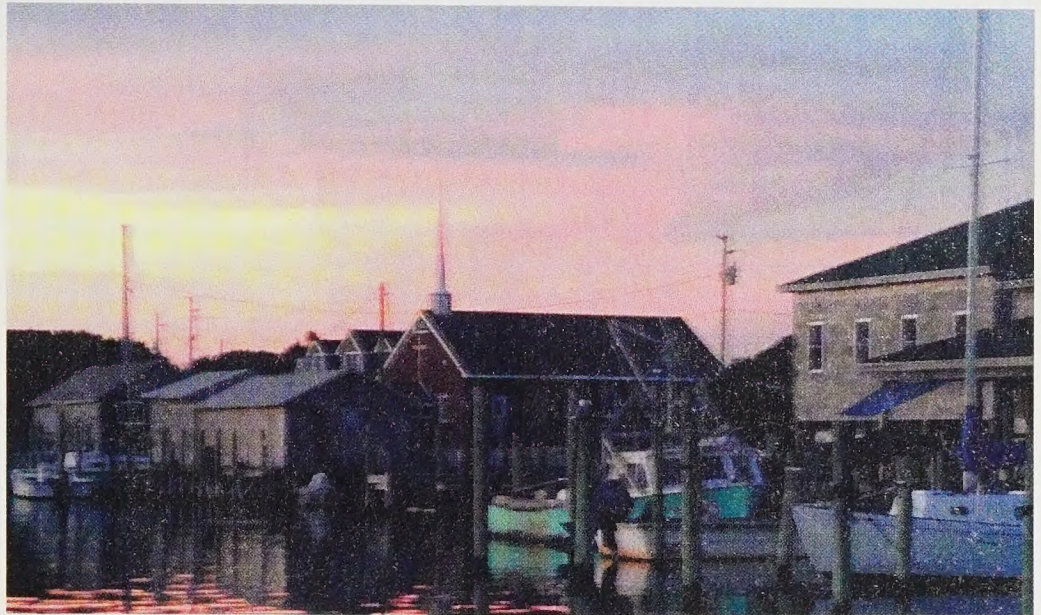
It will still take time for LED bulbs to appear in every home and business, just as it did for cell phones and computers, but these real-world examples show that LED technology is gaining widespread adoption. Energy efficient lighting saves people and businesses money and spurs job growth in the growing clean energy industry. That's a bright idea that everyone can get behind. 

Greg Andeck is senior clean energy manager for the Environmental Defense Fund in Raleigh. He also serves on the board of NC GreenPower, the first statewide renewable energy program in the country. A version of this commentary appeared in the "EDF Energy Exchange," Dec. 18, 2014: blogs.edf.org/energyexchange

Avon harbor

This photo was taken on a warm evening in Avon on the Outer Banks. Avon harbor was the hub of the village a few decades ago. The picture reveals the quiet calm after a long, hard work day. A sunset shows the end of another glorious day on Hatteras Island.

Joseph Caroppoli, Avon, Cape Hatteras Electric



Rational conversation

We received a big dose of comments from electric co-op members who took issue with two comments that ran in February's magazine asserting that climate change is a "hoax" and a "fraud." [Viewpoint, February 2015.] We will not extend a debate on this issue in the pages of Carolina Country, but in fairness we will excerpt some of the comments here.

From Candace Poutre, Moncure, Central EMC

In a world where science and technology are playing ever-greater roles in our daily lives, up to and including the electricity we use, it's critical that people stop getting their scientific opinions from pundits, politicians, organizations, and yes, letter writers.

From Grant Shipley, Carrboro

Saying climate change is a "hoax" is like saying Pilot Mountain is in Brunswick County. It is factually just wrong. It's a misrepresentation of what is actually happening.

From William Frey, Efland, Piedmont EMC

The "climate change study at the University of East Anglia" that the

writer refers to was denounced and discredited by the university as an inaccurate manipulation and interpretation of stolen data. I don't mind hearing an opinion that is an opinion, but I do mind misinformation presented as a fact.

From Paul Gates, member of Blue Ridge EMC

The authors of "It's a hoax" and "It's a fraud" are themselves the victims of hoax and fraud. They should give some thought to what our air and water would be like if the "environmental zealots" had not pushed their agenda in the 1970s and what ignoring the overwhelming scientific consensus and relying on wishful denials will mean for us in another 40 years.

From Melonie Taylor, Raleigh, Blue Ridge EMC

The two letter writers need to work on their research methods when stating as fact their opinions on global warming. Some effort to research unbiased scientific articles about this subject might enlighten them. Rational conversation is needed for the good of our children and grandchildren.

Correction

Last month, we misidentified the man with Bob McDuffie in the 1970s photo [page 14, February 2015]. He is the late Roger Williams, who worked for Randolph EMC from 1973-2003 in the engineering department.

Spanking

I was shocked, disgusted and saddened to see the story called "A whoopin' lesson." [I Remember, February 2015.] I know there are plenty of people who spank their children and plenty who think it's perfectly acceptable. I vehemently disagree. I believe that violence of any kind is unacceptable, and I am particularly disturbed by those who inflict any kind of violence or abuse on children. I have memories of a childhood without spanking, and both my brother and I turned out to be respectful, hard-working and kind.

Doris Bettis, Stella, Carteret-Craven Electric

See and be seen

Where I live, and probably statewide, there are many drivers who do not turn on their headlights (not running lights) when rain falls, as state law requires, or at dusk. Maybe these drivers say, "I can see. Why should my lights be on?" Whether you can see or not, the object of the law is that you be seen by other drivers.

Bill Gary, Haywood EMC

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How I healed


by Rose Cowles Turner



Left: I am grateful to be able to help take care of my mother, Marguerite Cowles (shown with her walker in June 2012).

When I left the nursing home at the end of February, I could walk but I could not use my arms and hands enough to feed myself or take care of my needs. A care-giver was hired, and home health sent therapists to work with me. Later I went to outpatient therapy.

Now nine years later, I can walk, feed myself and use my arms and hands in a limited way. The doctor said my spinal cord still has a large bruised area which will not heal any further, so this is why I do not have full range of motion in my arms and my hands are numb. I am thankful I have recovered sufficiently to help take care of my 99-year-old mother and to do things with my grandsons, Clinton, 11, and Wesley, 6.

It is all because of the grace of God that I am alive today. I thank him for restoring me to this level of recovery. He has been with me through difficult times, but his grace is sufficient for my every need. 

Rose Cowles Turner lives in Kings Mountain and is a member of Rutherford EMC.

Beverly and her husband had been my nurses in intensive care at Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte after my automobile accident in 2005. When I saw them seven years later, Beverly exclaimed, “Rose Turner, you’re supposed to be dead!” She could hardly believe I was alive.

On that fateful night of Oct. 29, 2005, a pickup truck turned directly in front of me and there was no room to stop. I felt my body go numb. My head hung forward until I couldn’t breathe. A kind man came and held my head up until the ambulance came.

I was completely paralyzed from the neck down. After a time in intensive care and surgery to repair my neck, I was moved to the rehabilitation hospital. Gradually, with a lot of hard work, I regained some movement. The Lord increased my strength a little every day. “The legs and feet come first,” they told me. “The arms and hands come last.”

After six weeks, the doctors said I had reached a plateau, so after Christmas I was transferred to the rehab wing of Courtland Terrace in Gastonia. The therapy was not as intense, and the Lord continued to heal me. I regained limited use of my body.

Send Your Story

If you have a story for “Where Life Takes Us,” about an inspiring person who is helping others today, or about your own journey, send it to us with pictures.

- We will pay \$100 for those we can publish.
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- Pictures must be high resolution or good quality prints.
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- Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want anything returned.
- Tell us your name, mailing address, and the name of your electric cooperative.
- To submit: email to editor@carolinacountry.com (“Inspiration” in the subject line) or online at carolinacountry.com/contact

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Your watch shouldn't cost more than your car. It should look and feel like a power tool and not a piece of bling. Wearing it shouldn't make you think twice about swinging a hammer or changing a tire. A real man's time-piece needs to be ready for anything. But that's just my opinion. If you agree, maybe you're ready for the *Stauer Centurion Hybrid*. Use your Exclusive Insider Promotional Code below and I'll send it to you today for **ONLY \$59**.

This watch doesn't do dainty. And neither do I. Call me old-fashioned, but I want my boots to be leather, my tires to be deep-tread monsters, and my steak thick and rare. Inspiration for a man's watch should come from things like fast cars, firefighters and power tools. And if you want to talk beauty, then let's discuss a 428 cubic inch V8.

Did I mention the \$59 price tag? This is a LOT of machine for not a lot of money. The *Stauer Centurion Hybrid* sports a heavy-duty alloy body, chromed and detailed with a rotating bezel that allows you to track direction. The luminous hour and minute hands mean you can keep working into the night. And the dual digital displays give this watch a hybrid ability. The LCD windows displays the time, day and date, includes a stopwatch function, and features a bright green electro-luminescent backlight. We previously offered the *Centurion* for \$199, but with the exclusive promotional code it's yours for **ONLY \$59!**

No matter what, this watch can keep up. Thanks to the Stauer 30-day Money Back Guarantee, you've got time to prove it. If you're not totally satisfied, return it for a full refund of the purchase price. You also get a 2-year replacement guarantee on both movements. But I have a feeling the only problem you'll have is deciding whether to keep the *Stauer Centurion* on your dresser or tucked inside your toolbox.



"I work in the surveying and construction industry... This is my work horse watch and I am proud to wear it."

— C.S. from Fort Worth, TX



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Hands-on training at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount

Nash college graduates 20 linemen

In December, 20 graduates of the Electric Line Construction Academy at Nash Community College prepared to start their careers as power line technicians. The academy prepares students with specialized knowledge and training to make sure they work safely and efficiently when they start their careers. Students learn about electrical computations, electric power systems, overhead line construction and underground line construction.

The 16-week program at Nash was developed in close consultation

with the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives and its Job Safety & Training Department.

With more than 400 hours of combined classroom and construction training throughout the course, students graduate with a nationally-recognized 3rd Class Line Construction Technology Certificate that qualifies them to begin work as apprentices to power line technicians.

A new class started in January.



Mr. Speaker

State Rep. Tim Moore of Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, (at head of the table) in December met with representatives of North Carolina's electric cooperatives to discuss issues related to their communities. Soon after, Rep. Moore was elected Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, one of the most powerful political positions in the state. Speaker Moore has been a longtime friend of the state's electric cooperatives.



As an example of his communication priority, Doug Johnson (at right) visited the Lenoir News Topic newspaper to help inform co-op members, media and their communities about fast-changing energy issues.

Blue Ridge EMC's CEO wins national award for communication

Doug Johnson, chief executive officer of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, in January received national recognition for his communication leadership. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) awarded him the 2015 J.C. Brown CEO Communication Leadership Award for a CEO who advances communication in the electric cooperative industry.

Presenting the award, NRECA's CEO Jo Ann Emerson noted that Johnson has turned Blue Ridge Electric into one of the top co-ops in the country with strong member satisfaction through a well-planned and executed communication plan. "I commend Doug for his commitment to communication," she said, "and his energy and willingness to take risks in the service of accountability to the co-op members."

Emerson added that, "We can gauge the health of democratically governed co-ops by how many member-owners vote in board elections, and by this measure Blue Ridge Electric, under Doug's leadership, is very, very healthy," she added. Under Johnson's leadership, the co-op saw an increase in member participation from 800 to 7,000 when it changed the election process to include mail-in and online ballots.

Blue Ridge Electric serves some 74,000 members in the northwest North Carolina counties of Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, Wilkes and Alexander.



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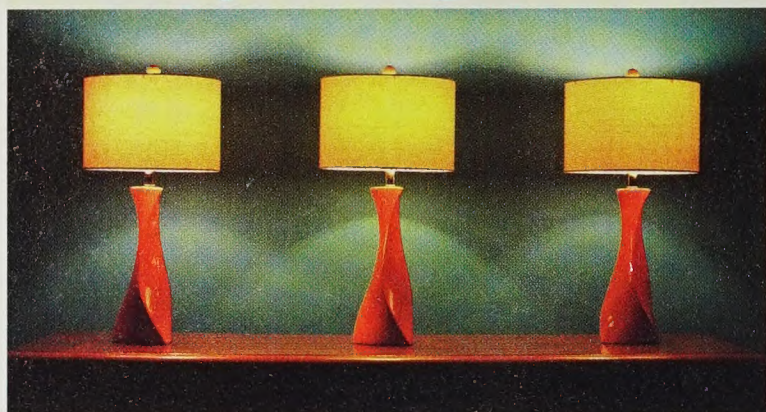
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Try This!

Comparing the new light bulbs

by Alan C. Shedd



When it comes to selecting a light bulb for the lamp on your table, there are many choices. The traditional 60-watt incandescent lamp — it produced a warm white glow, got very hot, burned out frequently — is no longer manufactured. You can still find them on some store shelves but they are fading into the past. Under the Energy Independence and Security Act, a bi-partisan bill signed into law by George W. Bush in 2007, manufacturers must make bulbs that produce as much light as the old 60-watt incandescent lamp but use 43 watts of energy or less.

To meet that requirement, lighting manufacturers have developed a broad range of products from “enhanced” incandescent and halogen lamps to compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light emitting diode (LED) bulbs. They are more widely available, offer better performance, longer life, and though they are still more expensive than the old-fashioned bulb they replace, the cost is falling and they save money and energy.

To compare light bulbs, it’s useful not only to look at the bulb’s cost and energy use in watts, but also to consider three properties:

- how much light does it produce (measured in lumens)
- what color is it (measured by color temperature in degrees K)
- how long does it last (measured in hours or years).

Let’s compare the newer bulbs with the old 60-watt incandescent.

A traditional 60-watt incandescent produced about 860 lumens of light, had a warm-white color temperature of 2,700K and had an average life of 1,000 hours. I went shopping for replacement bulbs that offered the same light output and color temperature. I found the following:

43-watt halogen enhanced incandescent

- looks like a traditional light bulb
- costs \$1.00
- has a life of 1,000 hours
- lasts 0.91 years if you use it 3 hours per day

14-watt CFL

- looks like a traditional light bulb
- costs \$4.49
- has a life of 8,000 hours
- lasts 7.3 years if you use it 3 hours per day


9.5-watt LED

- looks like a traditional light bulb
- costs \$9.47
- has a rated life of 25,000 hours
- lasts 22.8 years if you use it 3 hours per day

The LED uses less electricity and lasts a lot longer but is it really worth it to spend nearly \$10 on a light bulb? The answer depends on time. If you were to buy all three bulbs in January, by December, considering the cost of the bulb plus the cost of the energy it uses, you would have spent \$6.84 for the incandescent, \$6.39 for the CFL, and \$10.76 for the LED. So the CFL costs less to own and operate. (Based on the national average cost of energy at \$0.124/kilowatt-hour.)

Doing the same calculations for 5 years and 10 years, taking into account how many bulbs you will have to replace and assuming the cost of the bulbs and energy doesn’t change, the numbers look like this:

| Bulb type | 1 year | 5 years | 10 years |
|--------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Incandescent | \$6.84 | \$35.19 | \$69.39 |
| CFL | \$6.39 | \$13.99 | \$27.99 |
| LED | \$10.76 | \$15.92 | \$22.37 |

As shown in the table, the CFL has the lowest total cost of bulbs-plus-energy in the short run. After 10 years, the LED becomes the low-cost leader. LEDs offer good performance, most by reputable manufacturers come with 10-year warranties, and with prices continuing to fall, LEDs are a good investment. 

Alan C. Shedd, P.E., CEM, is director of residential and commercial energy programs for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

To see a video on lighting basics, go to carolinacountry.com

For more information on how to save energy, including a virtual house tour, go to TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



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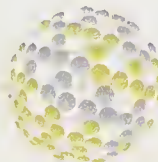
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After a major outage, there's no scene more welcomed in a co-op service area than a convoy of trucks from other co-ops coming to help.

Help is on the way

The cooperative mutual aid response after major power outages

When a power outage occurs, electric cooperatives these days increasingly are employing advanced communication technology to determine, in many cases, where the outage is and which services are out. New technology can even find out where faults occur on power lines. It's a major advance from the days when co-ops relied solely on member phone calls to report outages (or postcards in the days before everyone had telephones).

But the work involved in restoring your electric power still involves dispatching a crew to repair the problem.

Over the years, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have continually analyzed how they respond to outages so that they can improve the process where needed. The drill has been refined to the point where its smooth, efficient operation is a source of pride among co-ops. The response procedure is similar among electric cooperatives nationwide, but each region has its own policies and practices, mainly because weather, terrain and demographic distribution can vary.

What happens after a major outage?

It actually begins before a major outage if the cooperatives see a forecast

for a major storm that could cause widespread outages. Co-ops increase their inventory with supplies that may be needed after the storm event, and all staff is on alert.

In North Carolina, The Tarheel Electric Membership Association (TEMA) assists in arranging for mutual aid through the sharing of

followed by all the state's cooperatives.

"When we know a hurricane or ice storm is coming," he says, "we start building our inventory. We increase the amount of material we know is likely to be damaged: poles, conductor, transformers and crossarms. We encourage our members to do the same."

The Emergency Work Plan includes

detailed information about each cooperative's system: their system voltages, details on their infrastructure, what gear, equipment and vehicles they have.

Then, Moore says, "We're in touch with emergency contacts at the co-ops. The co-ops in harm's way know that we are just a phone call away, that we're here if they need us."

Where systems are damaged, the co-ops know that TEMA's material shipments cannot begin until it's safe

and practical to transport them. "A loaded semi is not going to be able to get up a steep incline ramp that's all ice." However, material shipments begin the minute it is safe enough to travel.

Co-ops that escape damage are on alert that other co-ops may need their assistance. This does not apply just to North Carolina cooperatives. TEMA is



The state's electric cooperatives formed The Tarheel Electric Membership Association (TEMA) as a central materials supply cooperative. Based in a 120,000-square foot warehouse north of Raleigh, TEMA helps coordinate response to major power outages.

line and service personnel among the cooperatives. It is one of many services offered by TEMA, a member-owned central materials supply cooperative formed by all the state's co-ops in 1975. Lonnie Moore, TEMA's senior vice president and chief operating officer, describes what happens when systems go down. He operates with his "storm bible," the Emergency Work Plan,

a member of a mutual aid system composed of 21 states—from Pennsylvania to Florida, from Michigan through Iowa and Oklahoma to Texas. The co-op emergency responders from these states meet each year to review their process and refresh their contacts. They are immediately in touch by conference call leading up to and after a major storm affects their states.

After the storm passes, co-op personnel assess the damage and determine what they will need. When co-ops ask TEMA for help, they are prepared to report what kind of help they need, how many crews, what kind of crews (tree crews, line construction crews), where the crews should go to await instruction, how many days they likely will be needed, and who their main contact is. Lonnie Moore contacts the co-ops nearest to the trouble area that can offer crews to those in need. Crews are then dispatched. Members of the statewide Job Safety & Training department, who are trained in co-op line construction and distribution systems, may also go to assist line crews in restoration and safety procedures.

Once TEMA makes all requested connections between co-ops in need and those able to provide assistance, “we turn our attention to the material shipments required for restoration work,” Moore says. The co-ops manage their own restoration work. Co-op management makes arrangements for visiting crews. In most cases, they already have reserved blocks of hotel rooms and notified local restaurants or caterers.

Co-ops themselves are responsible for the cost of assistance, which is mainly travel and work time, overhead, lodging and meals. Co-ops may also have their own arrangements with contract crews experienced in repairing electrical systems, as well as contract tree crews.

Moving the equipment

Besides coordinating assistance among co-ops, TEMA also provides supplies and equipment for power restoration. The Raleigh headquarters north of the city is in a modern, 120,000-square-foot warehouse. During emergencies, the 17-member staff is on duty shifts around the clock for as long as needed, writing work orders, assembling materials, coordinating trucking lines, and loading trucks.



Once it's safe to travel after an outage, TEMA sends equipment and materials to co-ops in need.

TEMA streamlines or combines equipment delivery, so that trucks carry supplies to co-ops along a route as expeditiously as possible.

“Seasoned people at the co-ops know what they will need after one of these events,” Moore says. Early in the event, however, TEMA may ship more materials than initially called for. “Experience has shown it best to have too much than not enough,” Moore says. “And we are always willing to take it back if it’s not needed.”

Catastrophic damage, or what Lonnie Moore calls “unforeseen events” like a tornado or vandalism, may require specialized equipment: spare power transformers, generators, even a mobile substation owned by the cooperatives’ statewide office that works from a flatbed trailer. TEMA will assist as requested in locating and delivering this specialized equipment on a case-by-case basis.

Getting the job done right

Once the visiting crews are no longer needed, the host co-op notifies TEMA

that they are “released.” TEMA contacts the management of the released crews for permission to send them to another cooperative in need if requested or to return home if not.

An advantage to this system of power restoration is that electric cooperatives throughout the nation work from the same power line specifications developed by the federal Rural Utilities Service. That means visiting crews are already familiar with the

construction requirements and equipment, as though they are working on their home systems. This enables line and service personnel to work more efficiently and safely.

North Carolina’s electric cooperative crews have helped co-ops recover from disasters throughout the South, operating under the same system of coordination they follow here. After a power outage, there’s no scene more welcomed than

a truck convoy of line crews coming in to help.

Moore also knows another advantage of this system. “Co-op linemen are the best,” he says. “They know what they’re doing and they have a work ethic unlike any other. They understand the members’ needs, respect the member’s property, and treat each consumer as the member-owners that they are.”

Moore acknowledges that every storm or event can bring surprises, requiring crews and operation managers to plan and operate on a moment’s notice. “It can be what we could call ‘complex,’” he says. “But the co-op family does a great job at responding to major outages and, speaking for everyone at TEMA, we are so very proud to be a part of it.”

This is the 23rd in a series produced by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. See the entire series at carolinacountry.com



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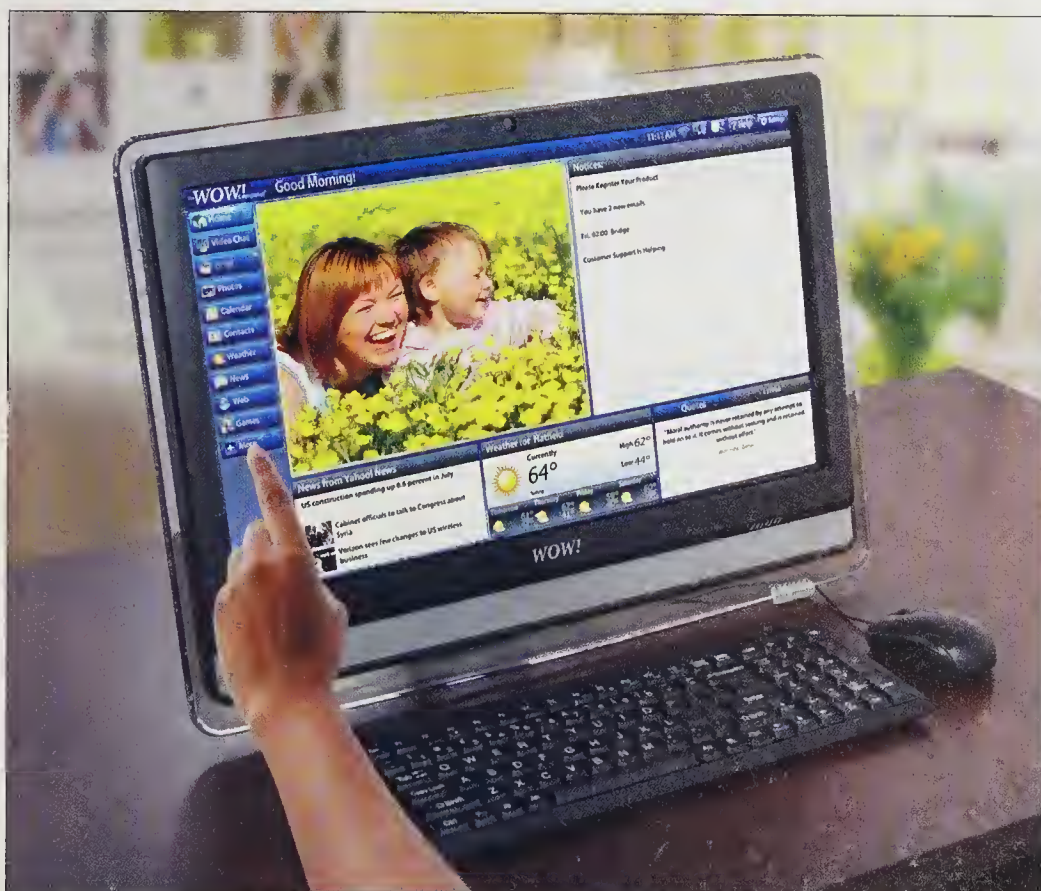
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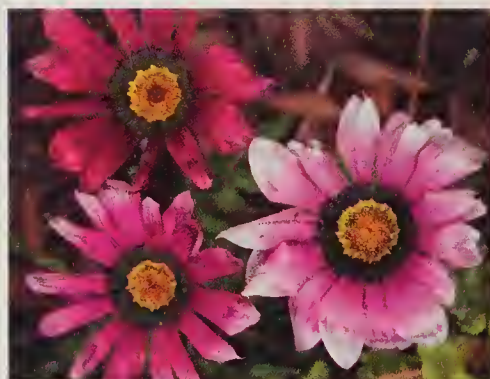
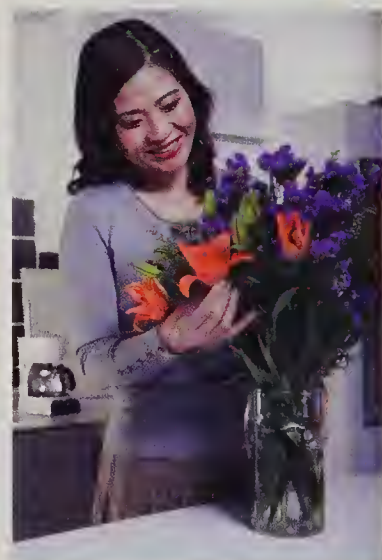
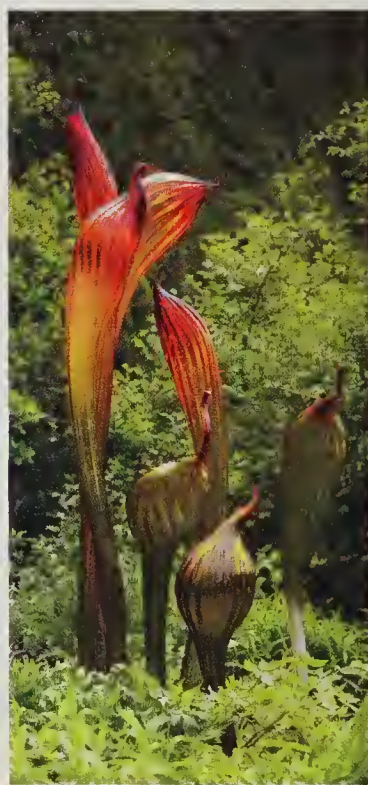
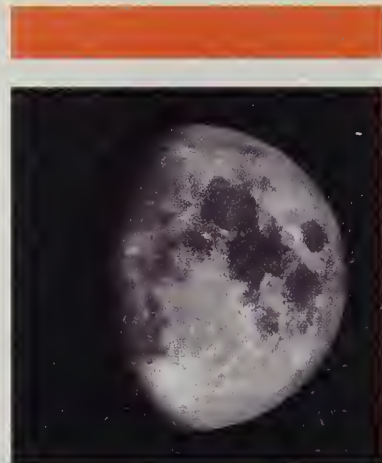
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2015 CAROLINA COUNTRY GARDEN GUIDE



LUNARMAGIC

Planting by the moon is no passing phase

by Carole Howell

My aunt and uncle always kept a dog-eared copy of Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanac by the phone book. They often mentioned the moon's signs in relation to whatever they were planting or harvesting, and turned to the almanac for weather forecasts as much as they relied on the weatherman.

The first Blum's, 500 copies, was printed on a second-hand press in 1828, and became popular as tobacco farmers brought their golden burley to market each October. In 1926, the Goslen family of Winston-Salem purchased the rights to the familiar red almanac, printing and distributing a quarter of a million copies each year.

The study of the moon and stars to set an earthly course is not new. For thousands of years, people of many cultures and religions have studied the heavens to mark time and to plan and predict long before calendars and computer models.

In this techno-tuned age, a new generation of commercial farmers and backyard green thumbs are tuning in to the moon's cycles.

"We've seen a vast increase in interest in the old-time methods of reading the moon and stars," said Spruce Pine's Jack Pyle who, with Taylor Reese, has written two books on the subject: "Raising With the Moon," and "You and the Man in the Moon."

Veteran farmer Rob Bowers applies the science of the moon's phases with the biodynamic calendar of German scientist

Maria Thun to time farming tasks at Whitted Bowers Farm in Cedar Grove, north of Hillsborough. Whitted Bowers organic produce can be found at the Carrboro Farmer's Market and several Triangle restaurants as well as you-pick strawberries and blueberries in season.

"It's a combination of folk wisdom with an overlap in science," said Bowers.

"I mean, doesn't everyone know you should never plant in Pisces?"

Michael Perry and Cathy Jones, owners of the 33-acre Perry-Winkle Farm in Chatham County, also consult the almanac to manage production of meat and eggs, cut flowers, potatoes, and seasonal vegetables. "It's basically a management tool for us," said Jones. "There's always

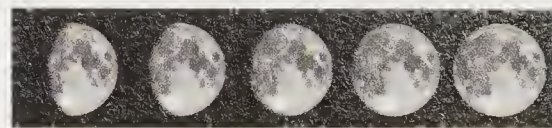
something to do, so I check my farming calendar to prioritize. For example, if the moon is more favorable for harvesting sweet potatoes that day, we'll do that instead of something else.

Keeping an open mind

I've never given a lot of thought to timing my farming tasks by astronomical positioning, but I'll keep an open mind, and the current copy of Blum's nearby, when it comes to this spring's garden.

What I know for certain is that anyone who plants a seed or sets a shrub is an optimist who expects a fruitful result. I like to believe that thoughtful attention to natural rhythms will pay off in a generous harvest and brighter blooms. We shall see what summer brings.

Carole Howell farms in the Rutherford EMC service area.



Getting in tune with the moon

It's really quite simple to apply the natural rhythms of the moon and stars to your gardening tasks. Here's how it works:

The moon's 28-day journey around the earth, and its gravitational pull gives us ocean tides. Tides are highest at the new moon and the full moon, when sun, earth, and moon are aligned. The passing moon that affects the ocean tides also affects the moisture of the soil during four seven-day phases.

From the new moon to the full moon, the earth's water table rises, bringing more water to the topsoil. As the full moon decreases to a new moon, pressure on root systems reduces as the water table falls.

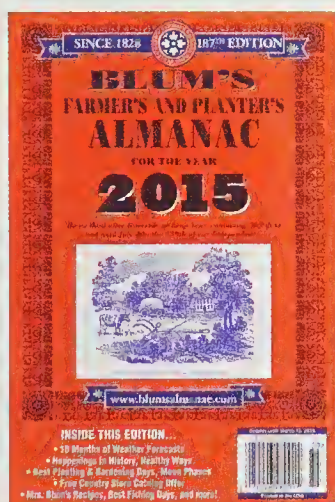
At its most basic, an almanac tracks the moon's phases and its relation to the sun and the stars to suggest the best times for certain activities. For example, gardening chores related to growth, such as grafting, benefit from the flow of rising sap between the new moon and the full moon. Planting during this period means that seeds and plants absorb more water. It also means that fruits harvested and eaten during this time will be at their juiciest.

The time between the full moon and the new moon is the ideal time to prune because decreased pressure causes less bleeding. It's also the best time to kill weeds and turn soil.

Add the constellations and the fruitful and barren signs to fine-tune your tasks for optimum success. For example, for the greatest benefit from fertilizer and compost, apply between the new moon and the first quarter, when the moon is in fruitful Capricorn, a feminine earth sign. Barren Leo, a masculine fire sign, is the best time to destroy weeds.

Like a cheat-sheet, all almanacs interpret astronomical data for you by task and the most favorable day of the month. Each one presents the information in a different way, but all the information is there along with explanations on reading the symbols.

Almanacs are available at your local hardware or feed and seed store, in bookstores, newsstands, and supermarkets, online and even as a phone app.



GARDEN DÉCOR

How to go with what you love (without going overboard)

By Kristen Hannum

We've all seen scary garden décor. Moldy naked concrete statuary, gnomes caught in private acts, random junk painted in neon colors. We've also smiled as a friend sneered over a piece of garden décor — say, the face of a Green Man in a tree or a life-size ostrich cleverly made of twisted wire — that we actually sorta liked.

Liked a lot, actually.

And we worry that it's a slippery slope, that our graceful bronze crane standing amidst the hostas might, in a few years, multiply into a backyard where it's hard to see the Kniphofia through the kitsch. Or worse, a front yard.

Here then, is a brief guide to garden décor and how to add a few eccentric or classic touches to your garden.

Trust your taste

Garden décor and art have nothing to do with snooty art critics. It's rather about whether a fountain, sculpture, mural or that quirky little wooden hedgehog in the pansies makes your heart smile. If it brings you joy, it's right. It may even be art.

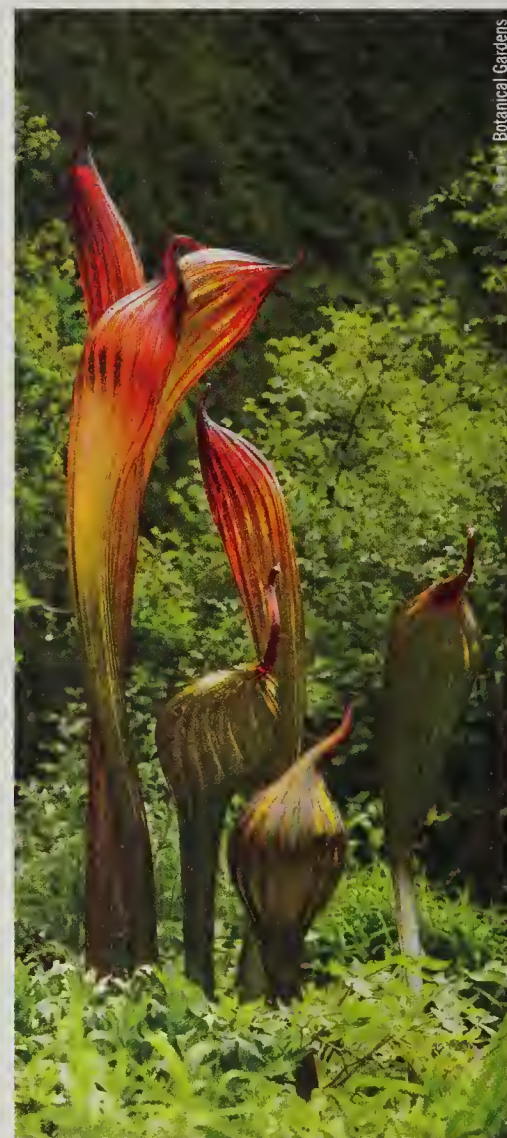
"Some people might think they're kitschy, but I don't care," says longtime gardener Tracy Johnson about her the metal woodpecker on a tree out her kitchen window and other salvage metal pieces. "I love them."

Think of garden décor as an opportunity to build your confidence in your own personal style. Just because a critical friend doesn't like your giraffe theme doesn't mean it's not exactly right for your garden. It's just not right for hers.

That said, if you've got qualms, trust them too. Put the piece (or pieces) in question in the backyard instead of out front. And if it turns out that the planter you repurposed from a wrought iron bed makes you feel disappointed or self-conscious rather than joyful, make it the star of your next yard sale.

Keep your inspirations

Don't just flip the magazine page past that brightly painted wooden chair that makes your heart flutter. Tear it out and add it to your inspiration collection. Do you love your neighbor's idea of using an old bed's headboard for a gate? She doesn't have a patent on it. Begin a scrapbook or Pinterest board with ideas and inspirations. Even if you never get around to painting a chair for your own porch, collecting ideas is fun and it gives you a better





understanding of your own style. And whether it's mostly whimsical, formal, Southwestern or English cottage, you can use it to give your garden a theme that will hold it together.

Don't overwhelm


Basically, this means don't let your garden décor become clutter. Just about every town has an example of a yard gone overboard. Use that as a touchstone for what's too much. Think of that house crowded round by so many concrete fountains and statues that it looks like a display yard for a store.

That doesn't mean you need to forgo collections of objects—colorful birdhouses on newel posts, displayed tools on a shed wall or galoshes filled with flowers on the fence all can be pleasing in an artful arrangement.

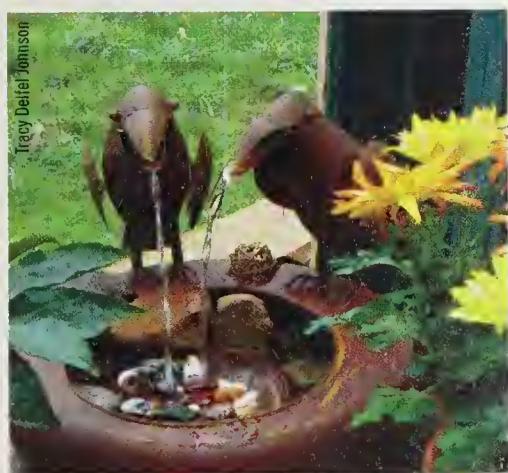
Refresh and cull

Your tastes evolve just as you do, and your garden is the perfect place to grow your style.

From time to time, take a look at your garden as if for the first time. What do you want to rearrange? Would a bird-bath please you more than the sundial?

Then get to work. You're creating a unique sense of place, a garden that will be like an outdoor room with your own personal style. No one can do it better. 

Kristen Hannum is a freelance writer based in Westminster, Colo.



PRETTY SPIDERWORTS

They also are deer-resistant and will bloom from spring into the summer

by L.A. Jackson

In spite of their odd name, spiderworts (*Tradescantia* sp.) can be very pretty plants. With strap-like leaves that form mounds up to 24 inches tall, these perennials show off clusters of three-petal, 1- to 2-inch diameter blooms typically dipped in shades of purple. A spiderwort blossom only lasts a day, but each stem brims with many more blooms to extend the spring flower show into the summer. And after this first flush of color has finished, pruning the plants back will encourage another burst of flowers later in the summer.

Spiderworts can be pretty dependable, too. Being North American natives, they are deer-resistant plants that can comfortably meld into almost any backyard garden scheme. Spiderworts tolerate shady areas but will produce fewer blooms in such sunless spots. A location in partial shade seems to suit these beauties the best, but sites in full sun will also work, as long as they are watered regularly



Gazanias

during the summer. There are some variations in height, leaf shape and bloom color among the wild species of spiderworts, but plant breeders have created cultivars with even broader deviations for use in Carolina landscapes. Here are just a few examples to consider for your flower garden that can be found for sale at local garden centers or on the Web:

Purple Profusion One of the more popular spiderwort cultivars. It waves deep purple flowers over mounds of green leaves that top out at a compact 18 inches tall. 'Valour', with more pinkish flowers, has a similar restrained growth habit.

Blue and Gold This "sassy spider" is as advertised—thin, chartreuse-bright yellow leaves create a colorful cacophony with bluish-purple blooms. It is sometimes tagged with the alternate name of 'Sweet Kate'.

Osprey Talk about a real eye-catcher—imagine ghostly white flower petals offset by center stamens dusted in deep lavender. This is the elegance of 'Osprey'. 'Bilberry Ice' offers a similar look but with slightly more lavender shading.

Caerulea Plena A fancy name for an equally fancy spiderwort. Gardeners always look twice at this beauty of a floozy that flaunts double flowers in hues of pleasing violet. 🌸

Garden To-Do's: March

- Cut back the stalks of spring-flowering bulbs as the blooms begin to fade but let the foliage die back naturally. Until the leaves turn brown and wilt, they will still be absorbing energy from the sun for next year's flower show.
- After their flowers fade, forsythias can be pruned. To maintain their natural flowing shapes, concentrate on pruning back only older, larger branches that overreach their bounds.
- Turn over beds in the vegetable garden one more time, incorporating aged compost, commercial organic soil conditioner, PemaTill or any combination of these three before planting mustard greens, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, radishes, potatoes and kale this month.
- Don't be so quick to heavily mulch beds containing summer annuals. Allow the sun to warm the garden soil until at least mid- to late-April to get heat-loving seeds and young plants off to a faster start.
- Before grass and other groundcovers begin to grow, survey stepping stones in the garden and reposition any that are not level or have become loose.
- Also, while the landscape is still at rest, walk about the yard and clean up any sticks or stones that could become missiles when lawn mowing season arrives.
- If you have gasoline left over from last year in any motorized garden equipment, replace it with fresh gas. Old gasoline loses some of its punch while in storage and can gunk up carburetors.
- Bird nesting season will soon be in full swing, so properly prepare for the winged visitors to come by cleaning any debris and old nests out of birdhouses, and give the bird bath a good cleaning.

L.A. Jackson is the former editor of Carolina Gardener Magazine. If you would like to ask him a question about your garden, contact L.A. at: lajackson1@gmail.com.

Tip of the Month

If you are thinking about growing such popular plants as lettuce, snapdragons, ageratum, balloon flowers, petunias, coleus, gazanias (pictured), columbines, nicotiana and impatiens from seed outside in the garden this year, for better germination, let ol' Sol help. These seeds are a bit odd because they need light to properly sprout. So, the best planting technique is to simply scatter the seeds over a prepared bed in a sunny location and then lightly press them into the soil surface, keeping the ground evenly moist while waiting for sprouts to appear. Resist tucking these sun-loving seeds any deeper into the dirt.



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POACHING IS ILLEGAL

In North Carolina, you can go to jail if you steal pine straw, Venus flytraps, wild ginseng and many other protected wild plants

By Carole Howell



Since December it's been a felony in North Carolina to steal this rare, carnivorous Venus flytrap plant.

From ginseng in the mountains to Venus flytraps at the coast, North Carolina nurtures several plant species that thrive in our state's diverse ecosystem. In fact, the Venus flytrap is one plant that grows almost exclusively within a 70-mile radius of Wilmington.

In case you didn't know, Venus flytraps are rare, carnivorous plants that feed on insects and grow in bogs on state Wildlife Resources Commission game lands in Pender, Brunswick, Onslow and New Hanover counties. Its numbers are at risk. The North Carolina Chapter of the Nature Conservancy estimates that only 35,000 plants remain in the wild.

Venus flytrap poaching has been a problem in North Carolina for decades, but in the last three years, it has become an epidemic. An enhanced plant protection law with stricter penalties aims to protect these endangered, petite plants from thieves who make thousands of dollars stealing this state's living treasures from wild game lands and selling them to out-of-state distributors.

Typically, the Wildlife Resources Commission makes 10 to 20 arrests a year for Venus flytrap poaching, but the simple misdemeanor penalty has been frustrating for law enforcement officers.

You can help

You can assist wildlife officers in preventing conservation crimes by reporting suspicious activities and violations to the Wildlife Commission at (800) 662-7137.

"It's very hard to catch these guys," said Sgt. Brandon Dean, of the N.C. Wildlife Enforcement Division. "You can just go ahead and be prepared for a foot chase because they'll use any possible means to get away."


"We have been fighting a losing battle with this for a long time," he said. "When we would catch them, they would pretty much laugh in our faces and tell us they were making too much money to stop because the penalty was basically nothing more than court costs."

A single plant fetches from between \$7 and \$10 in a store, but the price quadruples on the black market, where the plants are ground for their supposed medicinal benefits.

Over Memorial Day weekend in 2013, poachers actually made away with more than 1,000 plants from the Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden in Wilmington. That was enough for state Rep. Ted Davis of the 19th District, who sponsored legislation to elevate the penalty for removing Venus flytraps from the wild. As of Dec. 1, 2014, poaching these endangered plants is a Class H felony, not just a misdemeanor.

"I was born and raised in Wilmington, so I grew up knowing about the Venus flytrap and how unique it is," said Rep. Davis, who understood that a stricter penalty would be crucial to the plant's survival.

Barely a month after state representatives passed stricter penalties, wildlife officer Fred Gorchess and Pender County sheriff's deputies apprehended four men at the Holly Shelter Game Land with 970 stolen Venus flytraps in their possession. Because each plant taken is considered an individual offense, the suspects face up to 29 months in prison and fines if convicted.

Now that it's possible for even a first time offender to get two years in prison, Sgt. Dean and Rep. Davis hope that felony convictions will decrease the number of poachers and increase the number of these unique North Carolina treasures. 

Carole Howell farms in the Rutherford EMC service area.

Steal a plant, go to jail

Venus flytraps join wild ginseng and pine straw under protection in North Carolina by a Class H felony. In addition, North Carolina and the N.C. Plant Conservation Program lists a surprising number and variety of plant species protected with hefty fines for illegally collecting, selling and receiving endangered plants. While most of us already obey the law, it's better to play it safe by never taking anything from public land or parks including animals, plants, seeds, trees and herbs.

Search for Plant Conservation Program at ncagr.gov.

POISONOUS PLANTS

Getting rid of harmful ivy, oak and sumac in your yard

Before your family begins enjoying the great outdoors, make sure your yard is properly treated to avoid the dangers of poison ivy, oak or sumac.

Lawn and garden author Ashton Ritchie offers these steps in keeping the threat of poisonous, rash-producing plants out of your yard:

Identify poison weeds

Your goal begins with proper identification. Using a photo or web image resource such as StopPoisonIvy.com can help identify the various poison weeds, including oak and sumac, and their stages. For example, poison ivy often emerges red and only starts to turn green in late spring.

Look for these harmful weeds at these areas, especially:

Ground Cover

A common area for poison ivy is along the edge of a wooded area or around any shaded and less maintained section of the yard.

Trees

By disguising itself as part of a tree limb, poison ivy often climbs up trees situated in shady locations.

Edges

If you find that poison ivy continues to invade your yard year after year, you may be experiencing the “edge effect,” a phenomenon that occurs when the wooded areas surrounding your yard dry out. Various weeds flourish under such conditions.

Stumps

Dead stumps are also a common hangout.



Removing weeds

Once you have determined where poison ivy, sumac or oak is located, you can work to remove it.

Wear protection

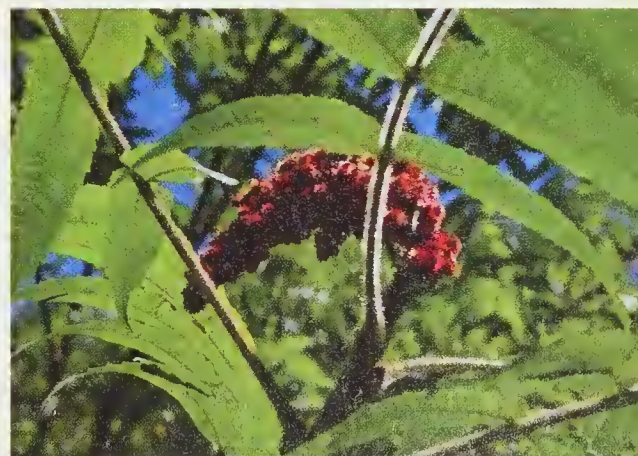
Cover your hands with thick, long gloves and wear a long-sleeved shirt and pants in case you accidentally touch the plants. Launder the shirt and pants before wearing them again.

Choose the right time

Always choose a calm, wind-free day for applying products to avoid contact with other desirable plants. If you can, it is best to apply with a temperature above 60 degrees F.

Apply a weed-killing solution

Look for a weed-eliminating product that works double-duty. Among such products: Roundup Poison Ivy Plus Tough Brush Killer, which penetrates the waxy surface of poison ivy, oak, sumac, kudzu and other tough weeds, while also killing at the roots. Spray the weed killer on the leaves until saturated, taking care not to apply to nearby trees, grasses and plants. Always read and follow label directions.



Wait for the plant to completely die

Perennial weeds such as poison ivy may take four or more weeks for a complete kill, so be patient.

Regularly monitor surroundings

Keep new weeds from growing by surveying your outdoor areas monthly throughout the busy weed-growing months of May through November.

— FamilyFeatures.com

EXTENDING THE GROWING SEASON

Greenhouses allow for a variety of fresh produce and flowers year-round

By Kristen Hannum

Like many luxuries once reserved for the wealthy, greenhouses have come to the middle class. As the cost of greenhouses has come down, more gardeners want one for themselves.

Greenhouses extend the season and grow a variety of vegetables, flowers, grasses, fruits and vines that never make it to the local big-box store. A beautiful greenhouse, especially an attached greenhouse, can also increase your home's value. At a time when China is a major foreign supplier of U.S. fruit and vegetables, greenhouses provide local and safe produce year-round.

A greenhouse can also be cost effective: that \$3 pack of seeds can become dozens of plants. Greenhouses eventually pay for themselves, both in plant costs and as weather insurance.

In Europe, nearly half of all gardeners have some kind of greenhouse, according to Andrew Cook, the founder of Exaco, an Austin-based distributor of greenhouses. Cook thinks that's partly because Europeans can walk through models of greenhouses at their local garden centers. Americans are rarely able to do that.

Choices and research

Typically, customers diligently investigate what kind of greenhouse they want, spending an entire year on average researching which greenhouse matches their vision.

What kind of glazing—glass, polycarbonate or polyethylene sheeting? Should they choose solar, electric or gas heating? And which company should they buy from?

Shane Smith covers these topics in his book, "Greenhouse Gardener's Companion, Revised: Growing Food & Flowers in Your Greenhouse or Sunspace", co-authored with Marjorie Leggitt.

Smith advises first ensuring that your property has a place for good winter sun and that your local zoning allows greenhouses.

Prices, building time


Then think about how much you are willing to spend. Hobby greenhouse kits, a popular choice, can cost from a few hundred dollars to tens of thousands.

Smith recommends that people buy kits from a supplier who is available week-ends to answer questions when printed directions don't make sense. Some kit manufacturers and suppliers have posted helpful You Tube video guides.

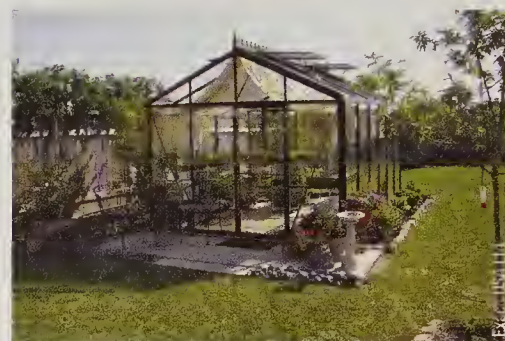
Smith says that a typical aluminum-frame, 8-by-10-foot or 10-by-12-foot hobby greenhouse kit will probably take a couple weekends to build: one weekend for the foundation and one for the building itself. Then comes the electrical and plumbing.

How about greenhouses' downside?

Cook says that a lot of cheap greenhouses have been sold in the past couple decades, and people have had bad experiences with them. And greenhouses aren't for everyone. Smith thinks people should be certain they want a greenhouse as opposed to a sunroom with container plants.

The number one regret Smith hears? "They tell me they wish they'd gone bigger," he says. 

Kristen Hannum is a freelance writer based in Westminster, Co.



GROW FOR IT!

Tips and tricks for home gardeners this spring

Here are some helpful tips culled from our archives at Carolina Country.

Flowers

Good bedding plants for bright sunny spots include portulaca, zinnia, marigold, salvia and celosia. Make massed plantings of zinnias, marigolds and petunias. These popular annuals contribute summer-long color accents.

Shady spots can contribute summer color from annuals.

The following endure somewhat heavy shade: petunia, balsam, calliopsis, godetia, lobelia, cockscomb, flowering tobacco, periwinkle and impatiens.

Plant an evergreen vine such as English ivy or Carolina jasmine along with clematis vine. This provides green camouflage when clematis is bare in winter.



Garden vegetables and fruits

Vegetables can be used as part of the flower garden. Examples: carrots to edge a flowerbed (the foliage gives a fern-like edging); strawberries as a low-edging plant or groundcover; cabbages backed with zinnias, with petunias in front.

When setting tomato and green pepper plants, place collars around the bases to protect from cutworms. Plastic cups with bottoms removed make good collars.

Remove blooms from herbs to direct plant energy to produce foliage, not flowers.



Trees and shrubs

The first spring is a critical time for newly-planted shrubs and trees.

Water them deeply once or twice a week during dry periods.

Most shrubs respond well to a general feeding of $\frac{1}{4}$ – to $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound balanced plant food per square yard of area covered by plant. Do not permit fertilizer to touch stems or leaves.


Dig and transplant small seedlings of nandinas that have grown up under established plants.

Lawn

Apply lawn-weed prevention to keep crabgrass seeds from sprouting.

If large trees cast shade on the lawn and the shaded area is not planted with a groundcover, apply a complete fertilizer such as 6-12-12, 5-10-5, 8-8-8, or 12-6-6 at a rate of 30 to 35 pounds per 1,000 square feet. This relieves competition for nutrients.

Fertilize summer grasses such as Zoysia, Bermuda and Centipede. Don't fertilize fescue until fall.

Start groundcovers of liriope, Mondo grass and English ivy where grass refuses to grow. 



Make cut flowers last

Put five tablespoons of bleach in a gallon of water, shake well, and keep a flower vase full of this solution. It helps prolong the life of cut flowers.

For more tips, visit the Carolina Gardens section at carolinacountry.com



THE BAREFOOT FEEDER



How to make a Nyjer or thistle seed feeder

Charles A. Barefoot Sr., a member of EnergyUnited who lives in Davidson County, is known for making nest boxes to house Eastern bluebirds. He gives them to people locally on request and asks payment only for materials and shipping. In February he began giving out some 200 bluebird boxes.

A native of Columbus County, Mr. Barefoot, 86, is retired after a professional career designing and producing electronic medical devices.

He has a new project that he described to Carolina Country.

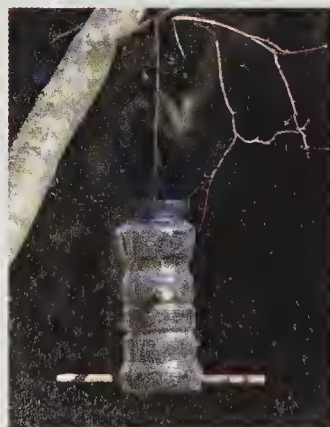
"Each year I hang several thistle seed [Nyjer seed] feeders in my back yard for the goldfinches and other small birds. Some time ago I purchased a feeder that cost \$20. More birds kept coming. I needed more feeders but I didn't want to spend a lot of money on feeders while I was also spending money for bags of seed. After giving this some thought, I set out to build my own thistle seed feeder. The feeder I designed turned out to be inexpensive, simple to build, and very effective."

You can reach Charles Barefoot at 6302 Radds St., Lexington, NC, 27295. No phone calls.



Above: Charles Barefoot and his handmade bluebird nest boxes

Right: The completed thistle feeder



Charles Barefoot's Thistle or Nyjer Seed Feeder

Supplies

- A 7-inch or 8-inch empty plastic jar, such as used for dry-roasted peanuts, with a screw-on lid about 3 inches in diameter
- Sturdy string or wire about 10 inches long
- 2 round wooden dowels $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch diameter

Tools

- Small drill or punch
- Saw
- Ice pick or small, pointed knife

Assembly (about 20 minutes)

Drill or punch a small hole in the center of the lid.

If using the string, insert it into the lid's hole and tie a large knot inside the lid, so the string cannot be pulled through it. Make a loop in the other end of the string about 8 inches from the lid. The loop is for hanging the feeder.

If using a 10-inch piece of wire, insert one end through the hole in the lid. Bend the wire, underneath the lid top, to form a loop about a half-inch wide so the lid cannot slide off. Make a hanger by bending and shaping a 2-inch or 3-inch loop on the other end of the wire.

Cut two $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch wooden dowels to 9-inch lengths.

Punch or drill a hole slightly smaller than the dowel on the side of the jar, about a half-inch from the bottom of the jar, running the punch or drill through to make an identical hole on the other side of the jar. Press a dowel through the holes in the bottom of the jar, leaving an equal length of the dowel protruding on each side of the jar. A tight fit is necessary to keep the dowels in the proper position.

About half way up the jar, punch or drill another hole all the way through the jar at a right angle to the lower dowel. Make sure the hole is slightly smaller than the dowel. Press the second dowel through the hole, leaving an equal length of the dowel protruding on each side of the jar.

Using an ice pick, small drill or pointed knife, make $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch feeding holes in the plastic jar about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches directly above the center of each end of the dowels.

Fill the jar with Nyjer or thistle seed and hang it in a location, protected from the wind, where you and the birds can enjoy it.

This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by March 5 with your name, address and the name of your electric cooperative.

Online: carolinacountry.com

By e-mail: where@carolinacountry.com

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

Multiple entries from the same person will be disqualified.

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our April issue, will receive \$25. To see the answer before you get your April magazine, go to "Where Is This?" on our website carolinacountry.com.

WHERE IN
CAROLINA COUNTRY
← IS THIS?



February

February winner

The February photo by Mylan Sessions shows an area in Clyde, Haywood County. From Fincher Chapel Methodist Church you're looking northward up the valley and Rocky Lane Rd. to Chamber's Mountain. The winning entry, chosen at random from all correct submissions, was from Ray Hipps of Clyde, a member of Haywood EMC.

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Andy Howard and his daughter Holly at H2O Fowls Farms in Harnett County.

H2O FOWL FARMS

A family farm preserve for recreational hunting, shooting and community service

by Catherine O'Dell

On a cold January morning, snow fell gently as young Brandon and his sister, clad in full camouflage, sat in two layout blinds side-by-side in the middle of a large pond surrounded by bare trees. They focused on aiming at the next duck to take flight and spending time together, and you could see how much they enjoyed it. It was the first time Brandon had been hunting since the loss of his favorite hunting buddy, his father, who had been a utility lineman.

This hunt was made possible through Hunters Helping Kids and a network of electric utility workers. The pond is located just outside of Dunn, Harnett County, on H2O Fowl Farms.

H2O Fowl Farms is a 118-acre hunting preserve and shooting range owned by Andy Howard, supervisor of purchasing and fleet for South River EMC. Howard and his family run H2O Fowl Farms as a pastime, born as a Future Farmers of America project.

"When my son (Drew) was 16 years old," Howard said, "he had to complete a SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) project for FFA, and together we brainstormed the idea. We started small with a limited amount of wildlife. Soon we saw how what we did could impact others and provide a positive service for our community. Seeing the positives that came from the business encouraged us to grow and expand."

Today, H2O Fowl Farms offers guided hunts for upland game and

waterfowl, clay target shooting, and International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) shooting matches. Pistol and rifle pits are open for recreational shooting and practice. They schedule concealed-carry handgun training classes and host several local law enforcement agencies for weapons qualifications. The range also allocates space and time to 4H clubs in Harnett and Johnston counties, as well as the Triton High School shooting team.

There is even a little bit of star power on site. Larry Vickers of Vickers Tactical, a South River EMC member, films footage here for his website, TacTV and YouTube. Vickers is nationally recognized for his knowledge and testing of defensive firearms.

Although H2O Fowl Farms pays for itself, Howard is adamant that he dedicates his time because of his love for the sports of shooting and hunting and a deep commitment to community.


"Being of service to our community is one of our primary goals," said Howard. "We hold several shooting matches where proceeds are donated to various charities, to families of fallen soldiers from the military's Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) teams, and toward the effort to stop child trafficking—a much more pervasive problem than many people realize."

All duck blinds are wheelchair-accessible. With advance notice, H2O Farms will make reasonable accommodations requested by a hunter.

Howard has found a niche for helping single mothers' open the world of hunting to their children by teaching the fundamentals of gun safety.

"My daughter is here every Saturday and she has been a real help because she thinks of the little things that really make a difference for these kids," he said. "We enjoy these hunts just as much as the hunters do."

Howard says that the success of H2O Fowl Farms wouldn't be possible without the support of his family and a wide circle of friends. Help comes from his wife, Shari, son Drew, 27, and daughter Holly, 22, as well as four guides, 15 volunteer range safety officers and numerous friends.

"I am blessed with a family who shares my interests in the business," he says. "It is truly a family affair and each member plays a key role in keeping the operation running. I have great friends who graciously volunteer their time to help us succeed and who truly enjoy being a part of the action and giving back (to the community). Yes, I am blessed." 

Catherine O'Dell is vice president of member services and public relations for South River EMC.

For more information

H2O Fowl Farms
3494 Fairground Road, Dunn, NC 28334
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h2ofowlfarmsnc.com

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| 60-64 | \$28.00 | \$21.50 | \$38.80 | \$29.70 | \$55.00 | \$42.00 | \$136.00 | \$103.50 |
| 65-69 | \$33.50 | \$26.00 | \$46.50 | \$36.00 | \$66.00 | \$51.00 | \$163.50 | \$126.00 |
| 70-74 | \$45.00 | \$35.00 | \$62.60 | \$48.60 | \$89.00 | \$69.00 | \$221.00 | \$171.00 |
| 75-79 | \$61.00 | \$49.50 | \$85.00 | \$68.90 | \$121.00 | \$98.00 | \$301.00 | \$243.50 |
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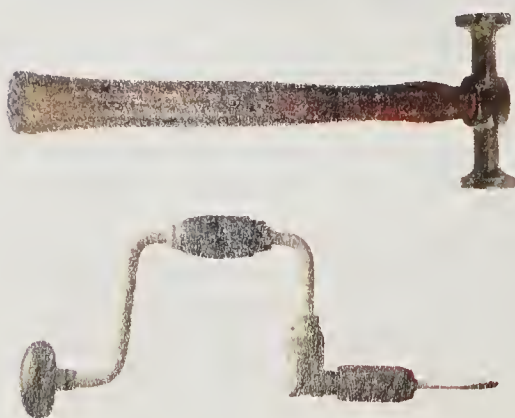
A strong & creative work ethic

The industrious Quakers of Snow Camp have been making their mark since the mid 1700s

by J. Timothy Allen



The Snow Camp Woolen Mill was constructed on Cane Creek in 1886 by Hugh and Thomas Dixon. Machines from a mill near Bethabara, near Winston-Salem, were used in the mill. The mill paid workers \$1 per day, twice the pay earned at Burlington mills. Houses were built to accommodate the workers during the week. The structure burned down in 1908 and was not rebuilt.



The small Piedmont community of Snow Camp in Alamance County is known for its Quaker heritage. Society of Friends members from Pennsylvania and Virginia settled there around 1749, quickly building Cane Creek Quaker Meeting in 1751 which then gave birth to five other Friends Meetings: Deep River, Spring, New Garden, Centre and Rocky River. The rich religious heritage of the Friends is still recalled in the two shows at the Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre: “The Sword of Peace,” which is about Quaker resistance to the Revolutionary War, and the “Pathway to Freedom,” which relates the role of Quakers in the Underground Railroad.

The theater itself is the realization of a dream of Quakers Ed and Lorraine Griffin as well as the hard work of James Wilson and his family.

What is not so well known about the Snow Camp Quakers is their penchant for industry. There are few signs left of the manufacturing and entrepreneurial side of Snow Camp today. While it is expected that farm tasks such as raising mules, making pottery, tanning, logging, carding and weaving yarn, blacksmithing and others, including ferry services, might become part-time or even full-time professions, a look back into the past reveals a strong and creative work ethic that led to many innovative ideas and enduring companies.

As businesses were formed in the 1800s, goods were shipped to and brought in from various towns in and out of state. Dirt roads were dusty when dry and muddy when wet. A more dependable route was needed to benefit commerce. In the 1840s several people in Snow Camp, including Quakers Joseph, Thomas, Gurney and Hugh Dixon, constructed a plank road from Snow Camp to Fayetteville.

The old buildings now only exist in memories and photographs but for roughly 150 years Snow Camp was a bustling industrial center.

Mills

Simon Dixon was one of the original Quaker settlers in Snow Camp. When he arrived from Pennsylvania he brought with him two millstones that were soon grinding away in his new mill on Cane Creek. He was also known for having a “rock house” in the area rather than a log cabin like others. His mill ran until the 1930s.

The longest running mill in Snow Camp is Lindley Mill. Begun in 1755 by Thomas Lindley, it remains at its original location just off Greensboro-Chapel Hill Road on Lindley Mill Road and features organic flour. While it left the Lindley family briefly in the 1800s, the ninth generation of Lindleys now own and operate the mill.

The Cane Creek area has been the home of many manufacturing facilities throughout the centuries. Cane Creek Cotton Mill was built in 1835. A thousand investors bought stock; Jesse Workman and Peter Stout helped build the dam for the mill. The mill was later bought out and named Holman Mill. It was closed and reopened several times producing various products including cloth and flour until 1937.

Snow Camp Woolen Mill was built by Hugh and Thomas Dixon in 1886. Many locals raised sheep and sold wool to the mill. Others made lye soap and some wove for the mill. After the mill burned it was turned into Snow Camp Roller Mill (or Snow Camp Milling Company) by Harris McVey and Charlie Durham and it ran until 1974 producing cornmeal and livestock feed.

"Industry was a family matter..."



Stores

Several small stores supplied the residents with necessities. Most stores in those days sold only a few items, while some offered multiple services such as post office, blacksmith and grave markers. Many products were ordered from catalogues. Randolph Coble ran a local store in the late 1800s that was later taken over by son Claude Coble. Hayes Thompson also owned a store around 1900. His son Paul opened a garage in 1931. William Patterson Stout was given a tannery business when he married local Jennie Dixon; he sold these goods in a store a few miles north of Snow Camp.

Allens

Industry was a family matter when it came to John Allen III and his wife Rachel. Their late 1700s two-story home (that is now located at the Alamance Battleground State Historic Site outside of Burlington) held 12 children as well as Rachel's collection of potions and herbs for her itinerant medical practice and pharmacy. John wore many hats: farmer, teacher, craftsman and lawyer. He also operated a small store from the back of his house.

The Snow Camp Allens operated a small foundry which was then updated by Temple Unthank just before the Civil War. It proved unprofitable but


Quaker William Henley and other men re-organized Fairmount Foundry after the Civil War. Henley, who patented the turbine wheel, also constructed many other mills in the state.

Education

Quakers were quite creative when it came to education as well. Cane Creek Friends Meeting members were leaders in Sylvan of the Grove Academy, now Sylvan Elementary School. When a new building was constructed in 1912, brick fired from local clay and wood from nearby trees was milled for construction. Parents even bought chairs for their own children. Just a few years later George Beale operated the first school bus in the state for Sylvan. Many of the pastors of Cane Creek Meeting taught at Sylvan School. Jane Hammer and her husband, Isaac, had the foresight to endow Sylvan School, and funds from that endowment are still used today for the students.

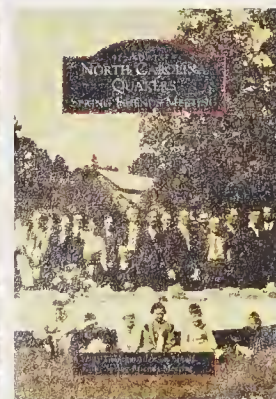
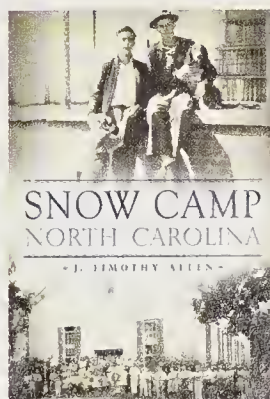
Vision

Innovation was also seen in Cane Creek Friends Meeting. Long before power came to the area the meeting house was lit by batteries.

Eula Louise Dixon was a visionary in Snow Camp. The second female graduate of North Carolina State College (now NC State University) was probably an Extension agent in the area and she managed her own farm. A president of Snow Camp Woolen Mill, she saw the future was in the telephone. She was instrumental in Snow Camp's first switchboard. When the building burned in 1914 several Quaker men quickly set up the publicly traded Snow Camp Telephone Company. 



Thomas Lindley and Hugh Laughlin built this mill in 1755 on Cane Creek. This picture was taken around 1920 by Ralph Johnson and then reproduced by C.M. Newlin of Snow Camp. The mill has been restored, and its large stone, water-powered wheels grind meal and flour for customers today.



Tim Allen lives in Snow Camp and is the author of "Snow Camp, North Carolina" (History Press, 2013), and "North Carolina Quakers: Spring Friends Meeting" (Arcadia Publishing, 2011).



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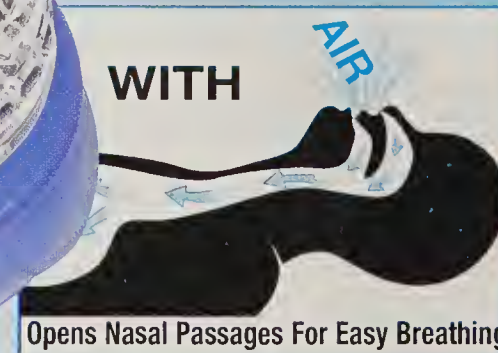
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Remember...



This is Mom wearing her Sunday best sometime in 1951. She is standing not far from the barn where she milked cows, fed chickens and created a lot of humor.

Cow names

My Mom says that when we were growing up she tried her best to make life fun on the farm. She recalls being in charge of naming the milk cows that the family had at that time. She also was in charge of milking the cows. We had Old Molly and Adna. She loved those cows. It was very humbling for her knowing they gave milk to the family.

There was one cow she called Frank, named after the neighbor who sold it to us. This caused some confusion one day when the man was visiting, because all the kids called out for "Frank" the cow. Frank the man was not sure whether he should answer. But after a few awkward moments he understood the joke and began laughing. My grandfather laughed, too.

Rana Williams, Hayesville, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC

Worth her salt

In the early 1800s, my maternal ancestors, the Greene family, moved to Mitchell County, N.C., drawn by booming industries such as logging and mining. Life was hard in the mountains nonetheless. The ground was rocky, the winters bone-chilling, and the Cherokee Indians, while generally friendly, had already endured numerous broken treaties at the hands of white people.

In 19th century Appalachia, salt was vital for preserving food. However, the closest salt mines were located in Kingsport, Tenn. a two-day round trip through Cherokee territory. Though a group of men traveling through their land might seem provocative to the Native Americans, a lone girl could pass unhindered. Thus, retrieving salt fell to females.

When salt ran low, Sarah Greene, about 15 years old, packed rations, saddled the family plough horse, and set out for Kingsport. Following paths worn by Cherokee and settlers alike, Sarah drank from the many creeks she crossed. At night she tethered her horse, built a fire to ward off unwanted wildlife, and slept on the ground.

Upon arrival in Kingsport, she purchased enough salt to last their family until the next trip, then hastened home. Many years later, the Cherokee Nation lost large portions of land to the U.S. government, and the hunting paths Sarah once navigated alone surged with settlers pushing west.

To this day, the story of Sarah's bravery in traveling such a distance alone through Cherokee territory is passed down through our family. In a time when families worked together to survive, Sarah earned her salt.

Catherine Wilson, Leasburg, Piedmont EMC

The Fair Bluff party line, circa 1955

It's finally Saturday morning and the neighborhood gang has gathered at my house to decide whether to play baseball, basketball or ride bikes. We're all about the same age, 7 to 9 years old. We decide on baseball, but we'll need more players.

I go into the house to call Doug to come join us. Picking up the telephone receiver, I can hear Ray's mom talking to her neighbor on our "party line." Frustrated, I wait until the line clears. I tap the cradle switch several times to get the telephone operator, Miss Taffy. Finally she answers with the dictum, "Number please." I respond hastily with Doug's telephone number, 93W. There's a short pause, then Miss Taffy tells me that she'll be glad to "ring it," but Doug's not home. She says that he's gone with Gladys and Bunny to Whiteville and won't be home until 2 p.m. Sadly, I return to the gang to deal with a complicated situation.

"Doug can't come," I tell them. "He's in Whiteville with his mom and aunt and there's no telling when he'll be home."

"Then call Ray," they say.

"Well," I reply. "I know his mom is home."

David Small, Fair Bluff, Brunswick EMC

The simple things

When I was growing up, Daddy was a sharecropper farmer. Our entertainment was a spirited red mule who occasionally brought a truck of tobacco to the barn without a driver. We all would climb the tobacco racks to get out of his way. Also, there might be a watermelon under the tobacco to enjoy. And there were the trips to the country store for snacks. My favorite was an Orange Crush drink and Nabs.

One day a week, my mother, sister and I helped a neighbor put in tobacco. He paid us 40 cent per hour or \$4 a day. We saved our money to buy material for mother to make our school dresses on her Singer pedal sewing machine.



We earned 40 cents an hour helping a neighbor put in tobacco.

We had no indoor plumbing and no television. We had a radio and would listen to "The Lone Ranger" and "Squeaking Door" while we shook our jars of cream to make butter. We had chickens and hogs, a cow and a vegetable garden, so we always had plenty to eat.

Even though we were poor, we never thought so. I am so thankful that while growing up I learned to appreciate the simple things of life.

Elaine Brown, Pinetops, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Tough love from Mom

My family settled in Greensboro in 1952. Mom would take my younger sister and me downtown to the beautiful Carolina Theater on Saturday mornings for Circle K. We would watch the latest thrilling chapter of a series and then see a neat movie. When the movie was over, I would take my sister and head to the pay phone booth. Mom and I had a signal for her to come pick us up: I would dial our home number, let it ring twice, hang up, and then get my 10 cents back! My sister and I stood dutifully on the corner waiting for Mom's car to appear.

When we grew older, Mom allowed us to ride the city bus to and from Circle K on Saturday mornings. But one week, my sister and I had been fussing too much and Mom said we were not going to Circle K the next Saturday. I looked in the paper to see what movie would be playing: "The Incredible Shrinking Man." I pleaded and cried with Mom to let us go, but she would not give in.

I was a grown woman before I saw that movie on TV, and I smiled the whole time I watched it, thinking of Mom's lesson.

Brenda Dixon, Kernersville



My mother passed down the tea set to me, and I will someday pass it down to my daughters, then to my granddaughters.

A priceless tea set

In 1933, my mother was 13 years old and living in Reims, France. A peddler visited her village once a week selling various items. After you bought a certain number of items, the peddler would give you coupons or vouchers that you could use to buy special items that you would not particularly need, but would want. Once she had saved enough coupons, my grandmother decided to buy a lovely little tea set, which she had seen on the peddler's cart several times.

A few years later, when my mother was a young lady, Germans invaded France and the family had to leave home. My grandmother buried the tea set and other precious items in the back yard next to the well to keep them from being broken or stolen by the Germans. The family left, walking with a mule pulling a small cart carrying necessities. At one point, they hid under the cart while an airplane shot at them. The mule never flinched and stood his ground while they hid.

After several weeks traveling over 100 miles, they could return home. Upon returning they found that they had been spared once again. They saw where a mortar round had come through roof above my mother's room, went through the floor and landed in the kitchen on the first floor, but it did not detonate. Later, they went to the well to check on their treasures that they had buried. Out there, another mortar had struck the ground near the well but hadn't exploded.

The tea set survives to this day. Although it may have been an inexpensive, quaint little tea set, it will always be valued as a priceless treasure to my family.

Huguette Bartlett, Denton, EnergyUnited

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March Events



Burntshirt Vineyards in Hendersonville presents a free Music In The Vineyards series every Saturday from 3–5 p.m. (828) 685-2402 or burntshirtvineyards.com

Mountains (west of I-77)

Park In The Moonlight
March 7, Chimney Rock Park
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

Wine & Antipasti Pairings
March 7–8, Ronda
(336) 526-1078
raffaldini.com

Creating A Nature Journal
March 14, Chimney Rock Park
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

Grilling Luncheon
March 14, Ronda
(336) 526-1078
raffaldini.com

Fried Chicken Fundraiser
For Ponzer Volunteer Fire & Rescue
March 14, Belhaven
(252) 943-2499

Chili Cook Off
March 14, Lake Lure
(828) 287-6392
mountainsbranchlibrary.org

ONGOING

Street Dance
Monday nights, Hendersonville
(828) 693-9708
historichendersonville.org

Bluegrass Music Jam
Thursdays, Marion
(828) 652-2215

RSAF Acrylic & Fiber Art Exhibition
March 8 through April 17, Valdese
(828) 879-2129
visitvaldese.com

The Wizard of Oz: Young Performers Edition
March 12–29, Flat Rock
(828) 693-0403
flatrockplayhouse.org

Music in the Vineyards
Through Dec. 26, Hendersonville
(828) 685-2402
www.burntshirtvineyards.com

Piedmont (between I-77 & I-95)

Evolution Of Firearms Lecture
From late 1700's to Civil War
March 5, Raleigh
(919) 833-3431
joellane.org

Battalion Bazaar
March 7, Wake Forest
(919) 554-8611

Rumba On The Lumber
KidZone, crafts, races, runs
March 6–8, Lumberton
(910) 671-3876
robsonroadrunners.com

Camellia Festival
Plant sale, competition
March 7–8, Fayetteville
(910) 860-0985
fayettevillecamelliaclub.org

Dancing In The Spirit II: The Griot
African-American communal dancing
March 12–14, Fayetteville
(910) 672-1111

Art After Hours
March 13, Wake Forest
(919) 570-0087
thecottoncompany.net

Timeless Treasures Then & Now
Quilters Guild
March 13–14, Charlotte
(704) 256-9039
charlottequiltersguild.org

Youth Concert
March 14, Fayetteville
(910) 433-4690

Latta Celtic Festival
March 14–15, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
lattaplantation.org

Highlands Old-Time Fiddlers' Convention
March 14, Robbins
(910) 464-3600
ncmcs.org

Sesquicentennial Living History
Re-enactors interpret occupation
March 14–15, Fayetteville
(910) 486-1330
ncdcr.gov/ncmcf

Author Visit: Howard Owen
March 15, Fayetteville
(910) 483-7727

In Path Of Sherman's March
Presentation by author Wade Sokolosky
March 16, Fayetteville
(910) 486-1330
ncdcr.gov/ncmcf

I Have a Dream (Dramatization)
Life & Times of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
March 18, Pembroke
(910) 521-6361

Amadeus
Play based on movie
March 20, Fayetteville
(910) 433-4690

Harlem Globetrotters
March 20, Fayetteville
(910) 438-4110
crowncomplexnc.com

TJ Renaissance Festival
Costumes, smoked turkey legs
March 21, Mooresboro
(828) 657-9998
tjca.teamcfa.org

North Carolina Symphony
March 21, Pembroke
(910) 521-6361

Darufle's Requiem & Quatre Motets
Choral literature works
March 21, Fayetteville
(910) 630-7153

Dancin' In The Clover
Ballroom dance
March 21, Monroe
(704) 283-8001
union4hfoundation.com

Storybook Gala In A Whole New World
Musical entertainment, three-course dinner
March 21, Chapel Hill
(919) 913-2040
rmh-chapelhill.org

American Girl Fashion Show
March 21–22, Fayetteville
(910) 486-9700

Cape Fear Farm Heritage
Soap-making, tractor games
March 21–22, Lake Waccamaw
(910) 655-3638
southernfarmdays.com

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The fantasy drawings of W. Gary Smith and one of the world's most compelling flowers — the orchid — come together in an exclusive exhibition, "Art & Orchids" at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. It runs through Wednesday, March 18, in Belmont. (704) 825-4490 or dsbg.org

Battle Of Battle of Bentonville Re-enactment

March 21–22, Four Oaks
(910) 594-0789

nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/

Mike-To-Mike Half Marathon/5K

March 22, Fayetteville
(910) 396-5620

fortraggmwr.com

Ballet Classics

March 22, Fayetteville
(910) 485-4965

ncstateballet.com

Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy: Visions From Cape Breton

Celtic dancers, music
March 24, Pembroke
(910) 521-6361

The Australian Bee Gees Show

March 25, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1991

Earthskills Gathering

Learn fire-making, stone tool creation
March 25–29, Durham
(919) 489-0900

piedmontearthskillsgathering.com

Fourth Friday

March 27, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1776

theartscouncil.com

Matt Roehrich Saxophone Recital

March 27, Fayetteville
(910) 630-7100

Backstage

Comedy play
March 27, Fayetteville
(910) 678-7186

gilberttheater.com

Bottom's Dream

Story based on
A Midsummer Night's Dream
March 27–29, Fayetteville

sweetteashakespeare.com

ONGOING

Maness Pottery & Music Barn

Dinner, music, fellowship
Tuesday nights, Midway
(910) 948-4897

www.liveatclydes.com

Durham Civil War Roundtable

Third Thursdays, Durham
(919) 643-0466

Art After Hours

Second Fridays, Wake Forest
(919) 570-0765

www.sunflowerstudiowf.com

Betty Lynn (Thelma Lou)

Appearance at Andy Griffith Museum
Third Fridays, Mount Airy
(336) 786-7998

www.visitmayberry.com

Fourth Friday

Arts, shopping
Fayetteville

(910) 483-5311

www.theartscouncil.org

Music Barn

Saturday night, Mt. Gilead
(910) 220-6426

mgmusicbarn.com

Art & Orchids

Through March 18, Belmont
(704) 825-4490

dsbg.org

Handmade Musical Instruments

Through March 23, Fayetteville
(910) 433-2986

capefearstudios.com

Searching for the Real Art by Mison Kim

Through April 15, Fayetteville
(910) 630-7107

davidmccunegallery.org

Juried Art Exhibition

March 2–19, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1776

theartscouncil.com

Ain't Misbehavin'

Musical revue
March 5–22, Fayetteville
(910) 323-4234

cfrrt.org

Uncharted Arts

March 23 through April 19,
Hillsborough

(919) 732-5001

hillsboroughgallery.com

Biennial Exhibition

Visual arts by faculty

March 27 through April 4, Fayetteville
(910) 672-1571

uncfsu.edu

Earthly Abstraction

March 27 through May 16, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1776

theartscouncil.com

Cruise In

March 31 through Oct. 1, Dobson
(336) 648-2309

Coast (east of I-95)

Uptown First Friday Artwalk

March 6, Greenville
(252) 561-8400

uptowngreenville.com

Home Fest

Remodeling builders, resources
March 7, Greenville

(252) 756-7915

pitthba.com

Tribute To Big Band Era

March 7, Scotland Neck
(252) 883-9827

townofscotlandneck.com

Open Mic Variety Show

March 7, Washington
(252) 943-4842

bctma.org

Love Letters

A.R. Gurney's play
March 13–15, Oriental
(252) 249-0477

oldtheater.org

Battleship Power Plant

Learn about ship's electrical system
March 14, Wilmington

(910) 251-5797

battleshipnc.com

Lane Hollis Family Band

March 14, Washington
(252) 943-4842

bctma.org



Listing Deadlines:

For May: March 25
For June: April 25

Submit Listings Online:

Visit carolinacountry.com and click "Carolina Adventures" to add your event to the magazine and/or our website. Or e-mail events@carolinacountry.com.

**Koresh Dance Company:
Come Together**
Israeli folk dance, Middle Eastern
and classical music
March 20, Greenville
(800) 328-2787
ecu.edu

Kidfest
Pony rides, face painting
March 21, Greenville
(252) 756-1567
mppfc.org

Coastal Living Show
March 21–22, Wilmington
(910) 395-1464
wilmingtonwomansclub.com

Dorothy In Wonderland
Adaptation from Baum, Carroll works
March 26–29, Farmville
(252) 753-3832
farmvillearts.org

Treasure Island
Classic adventure tale
March 27, Greenville
(800) 328-2787
ecu.edu

Mutts Gone Nuts
March 27, Rocky Mount
(252) 985-5197
wncwc.edu/arts/dunncenter/

Songs From The 60's
March 27–29, Oak Island
(910) 363-4183
sea-notes.com

JDRF Walk
Benefits juvenile diabetes research
March 28, Greenville
(252) 321-7671
jdrf.org

Fine Arts Ball
March 28, Greenville
(252) 758-1946
gmoa.org

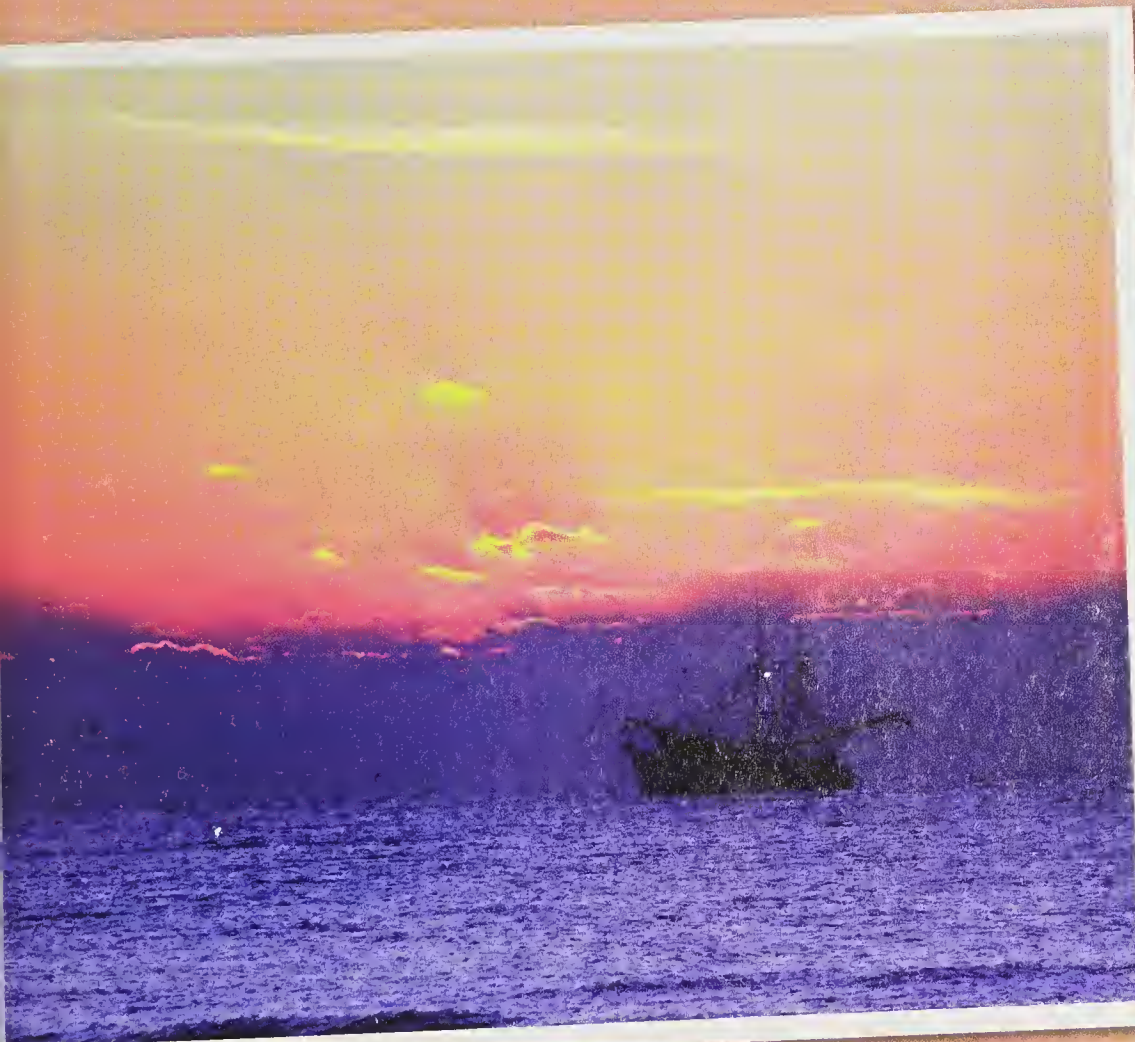
ONGOING

Soccer Shots
Through March 24, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600
swansboro.recdesk.com

Outer Banks Community Quilt Show
March 7–21, Manteo
(252) 475-1500
roanokeisland.com



Audiences everywhere have been mesmerized by Scott and Joan Houghton and their hilarious rescue mutts. "I laughed until I wept!" declared First Lady Barbara Bush. This mischievous pack of pound puppies is sort of a cross between a doggie circus and a canine thrill show. See "Mutts Gone Nuts" in Rocky Mount at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 27. (252) 985-5197 or wncwc.edu/arts/dunncenter



CAROLINA COUNTRY scenes *Photo of the month*

Bogue Banks morning

I caught this image of a shrimp boat on the brink of sunrise one frigid morning on Bogue Banks. My son and husband had gotten up before dawn to fish in a local tournament and woke me up in the process. I couldn't go back to sleep and decided to go for the sunrise. Alone on the beach, with my camera and a cup of coffee, I saw this spectacular morning scene.

*Beth Kohutek, Broadcreek,
Carteret-Craven Electric*

The Photo of the Month comes from those that scored an honorable mention from the judges in our 2015 photo contest ("Carolina Country Scenes," February 2015). See even more at the Photo of the Week on our website carolinacountry.com.

CAROLINA COUNTRY adventures

The Battle of Bentonville 150 years ago will be re-enacted Saturday and Sunday, March 21–22 at the state historic site in Sampson County. It will be the largest event of the Civil War's sesquicentennial commemoration in the state. For tickets: (910) 594-0789 or 150thbentonville.com/tickets.



The final blows

See sites where the Civil War wound down in North Carolina 150 years ago this month

March was a sad month in North Carolina 150 years ago. Weary citizens and soldiers saw the final blows in the War for Southern Independence with the South on the losing side.

By the end of March 1865, Confederate soldiers scattered and Union forces in April took Raleigh. Gen. William T. Sherman accepted Gen. Joseph Johnston's surrender at Bennett Place near Durham on April 26.

You can visit and weep (or rejoice or rage) at a number of North Carolina sites that saw action in March 1865. They are marked by Civil War Trails signs, N.C. Highway Historical Markers, privately preserved sites and major historical attractions (civilwartraveler.com).

Sherman's Carolinas Campaign

Union Gen. Sherman, brilliant and ruthless, led his army on his Carolinas Campaign in March, the final leg of his aim to break the military and morale of the Confederacy. After burning South Carolina's capital, Columbia, Sherman sent some 60,000 men in three wings into North Carolina the first week in March. Acknowledging that the state was the last to secede, Sherman at Laurinburg, March 8, told the men to behave "moderately and fairly" with North Carolina citizens. Not many troops complied, however, as "Yankee brutes" burned and looted their way to Goldsboro where they planned to cut the Confederacy's railroad lifeline once and for all.

Follow their path by taking Hwy. 401 outside Laurinburg to Fayetteville, where Yankees destroyed an arsenal, set fire to the newspaper office and fought some Rebels near the famous Market House (it survived). The Museum of the Cape Fear recounts the visit (ncdcr.gov/ncmcf).

Hwy. 301 north heads to Avasboro, just south of Dunn, where the Avasboro Battlefield Commission (avasboro.com) has preserved the site where on March 15–16 Sherman's troops faced the first sustained

resistance on this campaign. It allowed Gen. Johnston's Confederates to plan a larger defense at Bentonville.

Follow Hwy. 55 out of Dunn to Newton Grove, then north on 701 to Bentonville Battlefield, a state historic site (nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi). In rainy conditions, Confederate troops under Gen. Johnston outwitted the Yanks here in what would be the final military stand of the war, and the largest on North Carolina soil, ending in defeat. Moving on to Goldsboro, Sherman's troops, many in ragtag condition, were accompanied by liberated slaves, wagons and animals. They regrouped to 90,000 strong, chased off the Confederates, and began their march to Raleigh.

Kinston

Earlier, on March 8, some 12,000 Union troops from New Bern, including those who had laid waste to Wilmington, advanced on Kinston aiming to meet Sherman. Heavy fighting at Wyse Fork took more than 2,600 casualties on both sides. On March 12, the Grays destroyed their steam-powered ironclad ram CSS Neuse to prevent its capture. See a full-sized replica here today (cssneuseii.org).

Stoneman's Raid

On March 28, Union Gen. George Stoneman and some 6,000 cavalrymen stormed into the state at Watauga County and met resistance in Boone. Their objective was to destroy railroad lines, which they did, terrorizing the locals along the way. They also aimed to free Union prisoners at what had become a shameful prison death camp at Salisbury. They reached and burned the abandoned Salisbury Prison in April. There's a U.S. National Cemetery here that tells the sad story (cem.va.gov).

—Michael E.C. Gery

See a video of North Carolina Civil War stories: carolinacountry.com

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- Weighs 105 lbs.

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10 FT. x 17 FT.
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125 PSI VERTICAL
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TRIPLE BALL
TRAILER HITCH

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700 RUNNING WATTS
2 HP (63 CC) 2 CYCLE
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My Swing

This two-song CD has a special story. Knightdale resident **Tori Knight Ferguson** released it to celebrate the legacy of her mother, the late **Janet McCormick Harrington**, a Harnett County native who was a South River EMC member. In 1991, Harrington was told she only had six months to live, but thanks to a liver transplant she lived until 2012. Ferguson shared her mom's poetry with musicians and they created the CD's songs.



"My Swing," the first song, is a nostalgic, swaying melody about an idyllic childhood and a loving daddy. Lyrics are by Harrington; the music composed by **Scotty Miller**. "My Swing" is performed by **Erin Nenni** with **Grant Osborne** (piano), **Scotty Miller** (guitar) and **Peewee Watson** (upright bass). "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be," an uplifting bluegrass hymn in three-party harmony, also bears Harrington's lyrics with the melody by Ferguson arranged by **Scotty Miller**. **Erin Nenni**, **Blair Dougher** and **Maggie Pate Duffey** perform the song with **Steve Howell** (mandolin), **Stephen Fraleigh** (fiddle), **Scotty Miller** (guitar) and **Peewee Watson** (upright bass).

Half of the CD's proceeds go to **Donate Life America**, a not-for-profit organization committed to increasing organ, eye and tissue donations. The CD, released on Ferguson's independent label **Carltontree Music**, sells for \$5.99 at **The Carpenter's Shop** in **Sanford** and **Inspirational Grounds** in **Dunn**. Individual songs can be downloaded for 99 cents each at the website below.

cdbaby.com

Free seeds for Wildflower of the Year

Fire-pink (*Silene virginica*), a stunning native perennial of the eastern U.S., has been named the 2015 North Carolina Wildflower of the Year. A member of the carnation or "pink" family (*Caryophyllaceae*), fire-pink can be found throughout North



Carolina and occurs in a variety of habitats from dry, open woods to stream banks to sunny roadsides. The name "pink" refers not to the color, but rather to the frilled edges of many flowers within this family (think of "pinking shears"). In mid-spring, fire-pink explodes with an abundance of brilliantly colored scarlet, star-shaped flowers that provide a spectacular display through mid-summer.

The 1,000-acre North Carolina Botanical Garden (NCBG) and the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., which work together to promote native plants, named it Wildflower of the Year.

For a free Wildflower of the Year brochure and packet of fire-pink seeds, send a stamped, self-addressed, business envelope marked "Attention to NCWFOY 2015" to North Carolina Botanical Garden, UNC-Chapel Hill, CB 3375, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375. To view a list of the past 33 wildflower winners, visit ncbg.unc.edu/north-carolina-wildflower-of-the-year

ncbg.unc.edu

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on the bookshelf



Fleet biplane excursion

In an antique, open cockpit biplane, pilot **Phil Bragg** and his friend **Wayland Cooke** flew across the U.S. during the hot summer of 2012. After enduring delays, they finally departed from northeastern North Carolina in search of old friends in **Greensburg, Kansas**, whose town was demolished by a relentless tornado one tragic night. Their high-flying adventure takes them across the **Appalachian Mountains** and into the heart of America's

breadbasket, navigating with a bobbing alcohol compass and windblown paper charts in their laps.

With a humble sense of humor and patience, they share a seldom seen perspective of what flying used to be like in the old days, as well as what it can still be like today. In the quest to find their friends, they make many new ones along the way and unexpectedly stumble onto airports that are hidden jewels of grassroots aviation. Authored by **Bragg**, a **Roanoke Electric Cooperative** member, "Needle, Ball & Alcohol: The Second Great Fleet Biplane Excursion" is softcover, 197 pages, \$9.80, e-book is \$1.99.

cloudsiveknownpublishing.com

Temper the Winds

When **Maggie Clay**'s husband dies in a TB sanitarium, she is left with **Jenny** and **Josey** and less than \$3. Financially and emotionally set back, she is taken by her father to a farm life she despises, where she is unloved by her mother, **Leona**, and shielded by her father, both harboring a long-kept secret.

Meanwhile, **Joseph Jameson** has no intention after finishing medical school to do his father's bidding by working by his side, practicing medicine in the southern small town of **Enfield**. Could bumping into young and beautiful **Maggie** change his mind?

Sara Windley, the 16-year-old daughter of millionaire **Emmitt Windley**, is hidden away in a shack in the woods for several months. Is it any wonder that she emerges phobic and a borderline psychotic?

Set in the 1940s, "Temper the Winds" is an e-book written by **Wilma Hamill** of **Roanoke Rapids**. Published by **Book Baby**, 367 pages, \$3.99. It can be purchased on multiple websites, including the one below.

kobe.com

Temper the Winds



Wilma Hamill

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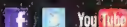
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A plaque on the door of Providence United Methodist Church on Main Street in Hyde County's Swan Quarter proclaims, "The church moved by the hand of God."

This was the preferred spot for a new Methodist church in 1874. But the property owner, Sam Sadler, wouldn't sell his land. So the church was erected on donated land nearby.

On September 16, 1876, the eve of the new building's dedication, a storm struck the area. Flooding rains and heavy winds picked up the church building, moved it into the road, then to the road's intersection with Main Street, where it swerved to the right and bobbed along two city blocks to the previously preferred location owned by Mr. Sadler. Mr. Sadler transferred title to the property, and the church was named Providence.



Domi-No.s

Solve these multiplication problems and write your answers in the box tops, one digit to each box. Then match boxes to find animal names in your answers.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| R | H | S | A | U | P |

X 2
S

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| | O | | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| E | R | R | R |

X 4
R

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| | | | |



I plan to write an article on Ahab and Jonah. It will be called, of course, "Males on Whales."

UNSCRAMBLIT

— — — — — don't lie.
d m c c e a b r s l r d

—the Pundit



Use the capital letters in the code key below to fill in the blanks above.

D E G I L N O P S means
s c r a m b l e d

Create an Equation

5 6 7 8 9

Using these digits only, can you create an equation on the blanks below?

_____ X _____ = _____

For answers, please see page 49

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Energy Star for New Homes was launched in 1995 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient construction practices. Like refrigerators and other products, Energy Star homes must meet stringent requirements and third-party testing before qualifying for the Energy Star label. As building codes become more energy-efficient, new Energy Star homes have increased program standards so they continue to surpass the building code. The Energy Star label is considered the baseline for "green home" certification programs across the country because it incorporates low-cost materials and practices for energy-efficient home construction.

Energy Star home features

There are many benefits to owning a home that is Energy Star-certified. Careful attention is paid to sealing around holes and gaps to prevent interior conditioned air from leaking to the great outdoors or vice versa. Insulation is meticulously installed around wiring, electrical boxes, ducts, and framing to ensure comfort throughout the home.


Energy Star inspectors, called Home Energy Raters, visit the home during the framing and insulation stages to verify the quality of work. Home Energy Raters are a second set of eyes that help the builder and subcontractors meet program standards. It's like my husband taste-testing soup before I serve it to guests. He offers constructive feedback and will re-taste the soup when I've made the necessary improvements. It's a team relationship.

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in Energy Star homes go through a rigorous design review and testing process. Energy Star Version 3.0 homes are pressure-balanced, which helps rooms be more comfortable with more consistent temperatures, even when all interior doors are closed. Ventilation is extremely important in energy-efficient homes to maintain good indoor air quality and to control where and how much the home breathes. Home Energy Raters test exhaust fans and outdoor air intake ducts to make sure everything operates as it should.



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Energy Star benefits

Energy Star homeowners frequently express their delight in being comfortable throughout the year in their homes and their relief to have low energy bills. Drafty windows and uncomfortable rooms are a thing of the past. Homeowners say that never again will they live in a home without the Energy Star label. Some families with health challenges have noted a reduction in those challenges with the improved indoor air quality compared to their former homes. Fewer opportunities for pests, dust and mold is a tremendous long-term benefit as well. 

Hannah McKenzie is a residential building science consultant for Advanced Energy in Raleigh.

It's worth it

Of the 1.5 million U.S. households that live in Energy Star homes, 55,500 of those homes are located in North Carolina. Research in our state has shown that Energy Star homes sell significantly faster and often at a premium price — making them an excellent investment. Visit ncenergystar.org to learn more.

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Costs & Word Limitations
For Carolina Country magazine: \$2 per word (\$20 minimum per ad). Maximum of 75 words.

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Scalloped Pineapple Casserole

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter, softened
- $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 can (20 ounces) crushed pineapple, well drained
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon lemon juice
- 4 cups firmly packed cubed white bread (crusts removed)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in the pineapple and lemon juice. Gently fold in bread cubes.

Spoon into a greased 2-quart baking dish. Bake, uncovered, 40–50 minutes or until top is lightly golden. Serve warm.

Yield: 6 servings



Banana Cake

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup shortening
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar
- 2 eggs, separated
- 2 cups mashed bananas (about 4 medium)
- 1 cup milk
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- $1\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoons baking powder
- $1\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoons baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt

Cream Cheese Frosting

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, softened
- 4 cups, confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Dash salt



In a large bowl, cream shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add bananas and milk, mix until just combined. Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add to the creamed mixture; beat for 2 minutes.

In another bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Fold into batter. Pour into a greased 13-by-9-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30–35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and butter until fluffy. Add the confectioners' sugar, vanilla and salt; beat until smooth. Spread over cake. Store in the refrigerator.

Yield: 15 servings

Salmon With Balsamic Honey Glaze

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons white wine or chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 5 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 8 salmon fillets (6 ounces each)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon each salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano



Combine the first six ingredients in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 4–5 minutes or until thickened.

Place salmon skin side down on a greased 15-by-10-by-1-inch baking pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Spoon glaze over salmon; top with oregano.

Bake, uncovered, at 400 degrees for 12–15 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork.

Yield: 8 servings

From Your Kitchen

White Pizza Dip

- 1 pint grape tomatoes, cut in half
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ blocks (12 ounces total) cream cheese, softened
- 8 ounces mozzarella cheese, freshly grated
- 8 ounces provolone cheese, freshly grated
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup finely grated parmesan cheese plus more for garnish
- 4 garlic cloves, minced or pressed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup freshly chopped basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons freshly chopped thyme leaves
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon freshly chopped oregano leaves
- Crackers, bread or chips for serving

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil then place tomatoes on top. Sprinkle with olive oil and salt, then roast for 20–25 minutes, until bursting. Set aside.

While tomatoes are roasting, mix softened cream cheese with about 7 ounces each of provolone and mozzarella, then add parmesan. Stir in fresh herbs, garlic and roasted tomatoes, mixing well to combine. Transfer mixture to an oven-safe baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining provolone and mozzarella. Bake for 25–30 minutes, or until top is golden and bubbly. Serve immediately with crackers, chips or toasted bread.

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

*This recipe comes from
Donna Cavanaugh of Youngsville,
a member of Wake EMC.*

Send Us Your Recipes

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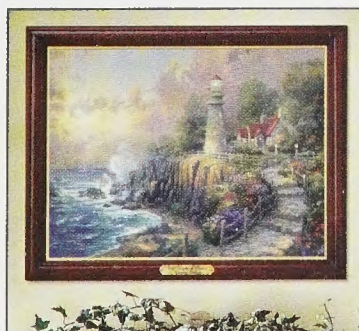
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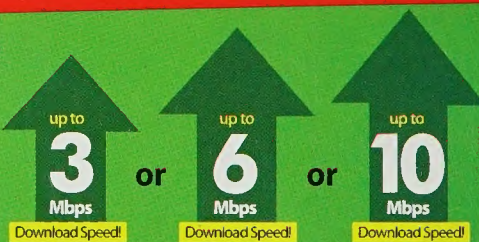
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AUTHORIZED RETAILER

FlexTV Offer Important Terms and Conditions: Activation fee: FlexTV plan requires \$199 activation fee and receiver purchase. Customers subscribing to DishLATINO or qualifying International programming package receive instant \$150 credit on activation fee. Installation/Equipment Requirements: Monthly fees and limits on number and type of receivers will apply. All charges, including monthly programming, pay-per-view and equipment upgrades, must be paid in advance; failure to pay by due date will lead to service disconnection within 24 hours.

Important Terms and Conditions: Promotional Offers: (not eligible for FlexTV Offer). Require activation of new qualifying DISH service. All prices, fees, charges, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice. After 12-month promotional period, then current monthly price applies and is subject to change. ETF: If you cancel service during first 24 months, early termination fee of \$20 for each month remaining applies. **Additional Requirements:** Hopper: Monthly fees: Hopper, \$12; Joey, \$7; Super Joey, \$10. With PrimeTime Anytime record ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC plus two channels. With addition of Super Joey record two additional channels. Commercial skip feature is available at varying times, starting the day after airing, for select primetime shows on ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC recorded with PrimeTime Anytime. Recording hours vary; 2000 hours based on SD programming. Equipment comparison based on equipment available from major TV providers as of 12/01/14. Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an Internet-connected, Sling-enabled DVR and compatible mobile device. **HD Free for Life:** Additional \$10/mo HD fee waived for life of current account; requires continuous enrollment in AutoPay with Paperless Billing. **Premium Channels:** Premium offer value is \$132; after 3 months then current everyday monthly prices apply and are subject to change. Blockbuster @Home requires Internet to stream content. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Free Standard Professional Installation only. Leased equipment must be returned to DISH upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Upfront and additional monthly fees may apply. **Miscellaneous:** Offers available for new and qualified former customers, and subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. State reimbursement charges may apply. Additional restrictions and taxes may apply. **Offers and 6/10/15:** SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. STARZ and related channels and service marks are property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. ENCORE and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. Visit encoretv.com for air dates/times. Regular monthly rate and Promotional Rates for High Speed Internet Product varies by providers available at each individual address. Call for providers available.